

CONNECTIONS

A Publication of Calvary Baptist Church

DECEMBER 2026
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CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24 | 4:00 PM

Start your family's Christmas celebration by focusing your hearts and minds on the Savior who gives us a reason to celebrate. This service is a wonderful occasion for inviting your friends and family members who have not yet received God's gracious gift of salvation through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

During the Christmas season, we celebrate God's amazing gift to us of His Son. If you would like to express your gratitude to our Savior by giving Him an extra gift to His work through Calvary Baptist Church, you can use an offering envelope marked for the Christmas Offering or select that fund if giving electronically.

This year, these gifts have been designated to further Great Commission ministry at Calvary Baptist Church and through our regular ministry partners.



MERRY & BRIGHT MINGLE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 | 2:00–4:00 PM

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for an afternoon of cookies, cocoa, and crafts. Please plan to stay at the church with your children during this event. Plan to bring 2–3 dozen treats for Cookie Stroll.

- 2:00 PM: Cocoa Bar, light snacks, and Christmas music around the piano.
- 3:00 PM: Cookie Stroll. Kids 3 years old–6th grade will have an opportunity to make an ornament to take home.

Please sign up on Breeze or at the Welcome Center no later than November 29, and indicate the number of kids in each age range.

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO OUR MISSIONARIES

This holiday season you have an opportunity to write an encouraging note to one of our missionaries! Please take the name of a missionary from the tree in the foyer and write them a holiday greeting before Christmas.

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Monday, December 7 | 6:30 PM

Ladies, you and your friends are invited to dinner and fellowship at Tommy's West Restaurant, 393 Edgewood Rd NW. Please RSVP via call or text to Deb Gaeta at 319-491-7720 or email at djgaeta@myctl.net. If you need a ride, please contact Deb.

SALT & PEPPER RETIREES FELLOWSHIP

Tuesday, December 8 | 11:30 AM

Enjoy a specially catered roast beef Christmas meal ($14/person). Afterwards, gather in the sanctuary to enjoy "The Collingsworth True Family Christmas Concert" video. Contact Nadene Roberts or Donna Voss for more info.

BAKERS AND DELIVERY DRIVERS NEEDED

The Diaconate is ready to prepare our annual Christmas platters for the shut-ins in our congregation. If you would like to provide homemade Christmas goodies, or deliver platters to our shut-ins, please sign up at the Welcome Center. The cookies need to be taken to our new church kitchen between December 8 and 10 and delivered on December 11 or 12. Thank you!

WINTER BLOOD DRIVE | Monday, February 1

Save the date for a blood drive at Calvary. (The last date to donate and still be eligible for our blood drive is December 7.) To sign up or to receive more information on becoming a donor, contact Nadene Roberts or visit bloodcenter.org.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

CHRISTMAS PARTY
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16 | 6:30–8:30 PM

Calvary teens, come celebrate our Savior's birth with a party in the youth building. Please bring snacks and drinks to share and a small gift (under $10) to exchange.

ARCTIC ADVENTURE | FEBRUARY 19–21

Junior and senior high students are invited to attend "Arctic Adventure," a winter retreat at Spring Valley Bible Camp in Muscatine, IA. They will enjoy biblical teaching and a whole lot of fun. Cost is $120. Permission slips and payment are due by January 31. Contact Pastor Matt for more information.

MEN'S MINISTRY ROUGHRIDERS GAME

Saturday, December 19 | 7:05 PM

Guys, enjoy watching a RoughRiders hockey game together. Tickets are $17/person but will be less if we have a large enough group. Please contact Shawn Hoy (319-540-1715) by Sunday, November 29 to order tickets or obtain more information.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING EVENT

Sunday, December 20 | 5:00 PM

You are invited to join one of our Adult Bible Classes (Young Adults and Parents of School-Age Children) and their families for an evening of Christmas caroling! Meet at the church, then we'll head out to spread the joy of our Savior's birth with Calvary families. Afterwards, we will enjoy cookies and hot cocoa together. Anybody is welcome to participate! If you have any questions, please contact Justin or Amy Caldwell.

FAMILY FORUM

WELCOME BABY BOY!

Congratulations to Michael & Brittney Smothers, as well as the rest of the Smothers family, on the birth of their son, Ryatt Edward Smothers, on November 11. Congratulations also to grandparents Mark & Allison Seamans and great-grandparents Alex & Evelyn Lykkegaard and Charles & Marilyn Seamans.

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We offer our condolences to Pastor Matt & Mindy Slippy, as well as the whole Slippy family, on the passing of Mindy's mother, Marilyn Jean McCarty Crim, on November 6.

We offer our condolences to Steve & Keri Howard and family on the passing of Keri's mother, Patricia Blomgren, who went to be with the Lord on November 16.

THANK YOU NOTES

Thank you so much for your kind and gracious support of Ministry Essentials and our amazing staff.
—Ed Murray, Board Member

Thank you so much to our wonderful church family for all of the support, prayers, cards, meals, and gifts throughout Mom's cancer journey and passing. We're so grateful!
—Sarah Caldwell

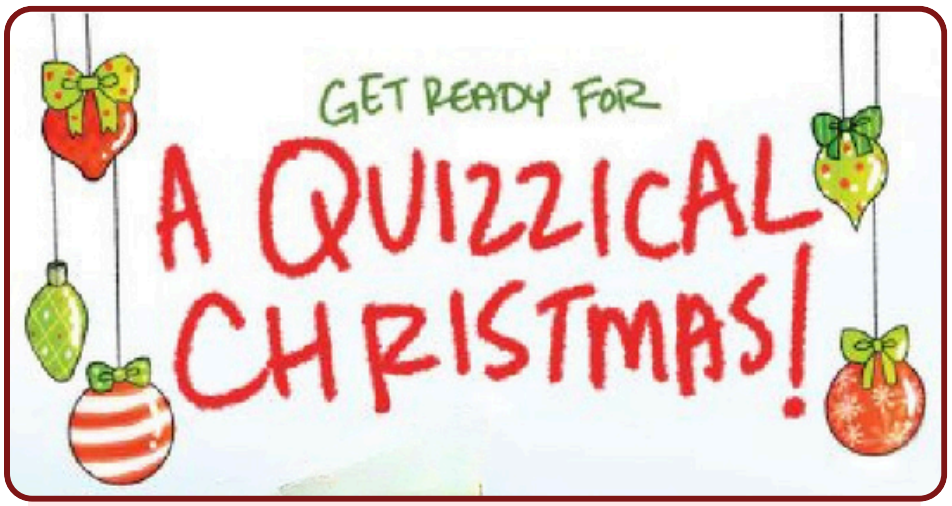
Thank you to everyone who helped us we got one house ready to sell and moved into the new house! We're so appreciative!
—Shawn & Marla Hoy

DECEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6:30am Elders Meeting 9:15am MUMs 6:30pm Men's Bible Study at the Home of Tom Dries 7:00pm Missions Team Meeting	**2** 6:30pm AWANA, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study and Prayer	**3**	**4**	**5** 9:00am–12:00pm Sonshine Singers Final Rehearsal
6 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 10:00am Inner Mission 10:30am Worship Service *(Communion)* 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Sonshine Singers: A Quizzical Christmas	**7** 6:30pm Ladies Night Out at Tommy's West Restaurant	**8** 6:30am Elders Meeting 9:15am MUMs Leadership Meeting 11:30am Salt & Pepper Retirees Fellowship Party 6:30pm Men's Bible Study at the Home of Tom Dries 7:00pm Trustee Committee Meeting	**9** 6:30pm AWANA, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study and Prayer	**10**	**11**	**12** 2:00pm Merry & Bright Mingle
13 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 10:00am Inner Mission 10:30am Worship Service 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal	**14**	**15** 6:30am Elders Meeting 9:15am MUMs Nutcracker Decorating 6:30pm Men's Bible Study at the Home of Tom Dries	**16** 6:30pm AWANA, Adult Bible Study and Prayer 6:30pm–8:30pm Youth Group Christmas Party	**17** 6:30pm Diaconate Meeting	**18**	**19** 7:00pm Men's Ministry RoughRiders Game
20 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 10:00am Inner Mission 10:30am Worship Service 5:00pm Christmas Caroling	**21**	**22** 6:30am Elders Meeting 6:30pm Men's Bible Study at the Home of Tom Dries	**23** **NO EVENING ACTIVITIES**	**24** **OFFICE CLOSED** **4:00pm Christmas Eve Worship Service**	**25 CHRISTMAS DAY** **OFFICE CLOSED** 	**26**
27 *No Sunday School, Adult Bible Classes, or Inner Mission* 10:30am Worship Service NO EVENING ACTIVITIES	**28**	**29** 6:30am Elders Meeting 6:30pm Men's Bible Study at the Home of Tom Dries	**30** **NO EVENING ACTIVITIES**	**31** **OFFICE CLOSED**		

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Julia Hale
Jana Shatzer
Ron Tower
5 Greg Dengler
6 Nadene Roberts
Brad Tower
7 Hilary Bourne
Rick Enfield
8 Ina Mae Wienola
11 Terry Kiser
Larry Lewis
12 Tim Abodeely
Berend Sandersfeld
13 Virginia Keller
14 Sharon Morrow
16 Nicole Andree
Donna Voss
Emmet Walker
19 Violet Hayes
20 Jurgen Sandersfeld
21 Roxann Von Lienen
Forrest Voss
22 Marlin Dunnick
25 John Morris
28 Beverly Danielsen
Tom Dries
Evelyn Lykkegaard
29 Deb Gaeta
Emma Hale
30 Bob Lehman



SONSHINE SINGERS
CHRISTMAS MUSICAL PRESENTATION

Sunday, December 6 | 6:00 PM

Our Sonshine Singers children's choir invites you and your friends and family to join them as a fun cast of characters prepares for the annual Christmas Quiz Bowl competition!

These characters discover that they know a lot about Christmas movies and storybooks, decorating cookies, and seasonal trivia, but they don't really know the true story or the deeper meaning of Christmas. Dive into scripture with our Quiz Bowl friends to learn the who, what, when, where, and why about Christmas, and most importantly, the way those truths can transform our lives.

SPECIAL REHEARSAL

Saturday, December 5 | 9:00 AM–Noon

Sonshine Singers and parents, be sure your calendars are marked for our final rehearsal.

SUNDAY SERVICES

- 9:00am Sunday School
- 10:00am Inner Mission
- 10:30am Worship Service (Livestream Available)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday
9:00am–3:00pm

Friday
9:00am–12:00pm

The church office will be closed December 24-25, December 31 and January 1 for the holidays.

Visit us online
www.CalvaryCR.org

www.facebook.com/CalvaryBaptistChurchCedarRapids

Please give contact information updates to the church office.

MOTHERS UPLIFTING MOTHERS
MUMS
BLOOM WHERE YOU'RE PLANTED

Every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month
9:15–11:15 AM (Registration at 9:00 AM)

- **December 1** | A presentation by Sondra Smale about being "Precious in His Sight" and a hot cocoa bar.
- **December 15** | Nutcracker Decorating Party! Little Sprouts ages 2+ will be with us in the gym making decorated nutcrackers. We will have a potluck brunch.
- Upcoming Special Events:
  - Pickle Ball Date Night | December 8 at 6:00 PM