



215-659-0554  
 215-659-4684 (fax)  
 www.calvary-wg.org  
 bmckay@calvary-wg.org  
 Office hours: T-F 9-3

### CALENDAR

#### NOVEMBER

- 4 Fellowship meal & Budget hearing
- 5-11 Pastor Jon on study leave
- 13 Presbytery Meeting in Lansdale
- 16 Ryan Rowden Ordination Service
- 17 12:30—2:30: Baby Shower for Brittany Gomez at the Manse
- 18 4:00 pm Vespers Service
- 20 5:30 pm Session Meeting
- 21 3:00—8:00 pm Blood Drive
- 22 Thanksgiving Day, office closed
- 26 7:30 pm Deacon/Deaconess Meeting
- 27 7:30 pm Evening Women's Bible Study
- 30 12:00 pm Session prayer meeting
- 30 6:00—7:30 pm Christmas Pageant Rehearsal

#### DECEMBER

- 2 Fellowship Meal
- 2 6:00 pm Angel Gomez Ordination Service
- 9 12:30—2:00 Christmas Pageant Rehearsal
- 11 5:30 pm Session Meeting
- 15 Women's Cookie Exchange at the Slagle home
- 16 6:00 pm Christmas Pageant
- 21 12:00 pm Session prayer meeting
- 24 Christmas Eve Service
- 25 Christmas Day, office closed
- 25-31 Pastor Jon on vacation

#### JANUARY 2019

- 6 New Membership Class begins during Sunday School
- 11 Talent show

## NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018



# CALVARYConnections

*The Pastor's Pen by Rev. Jonathan Bonomo*

Beloved Calvary Family,

One of the things I've been particularly struck by as I've been preaching through the Gospel of John is how John consistently emphasizes equally the fullness of both Jesus' divinity and his humanity. The fact that John emphasizes Jesus' divinity is apparent from the start, and many who hold to the orthodox doctrine of Jesus' full equality with the Father will often turn first to this Gospel in support of this position, and for good reason. After all, this is the Gospel that begins with the words, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." It is the Gospel that includes such statements from Jesus as, "Before Abraham was, I AM" (8:58) and "I and the Father are one." (10:30)

But at the same time, alongside these statements are equally powerful presentations of Jesus' full humanity. For instance: "The Word became Flesh and dwelt among us." (1:14) The language of "Flesh" is particularly vivid. Not just, "The Word entered into a body" – But "became flesh": Why "Flesh"? Because Flesh is the tangible stuff that gets dirty and sweaty and hungry and thirsty. Flesh is the stuff that suffers and dies. The Son of God entered into the fullness of this physical experience of our flesh in every way.

Also, "Jesus wept." (11:35). Such brief yet supremely powerful words. The one who would in just a few minutes raise Lazarus from the dead, wept as he saw and heard Lazarus's sister, Mary, grieving her brother's death. Jesus entered into the fullness of our human emotional experience in every way.

Lastly, "I thirst" (19:28). The one who gives living water and said, "if anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink," himself thirsted for us. Jesus entered into the fullness of our human weakness and need in every way.

When we consider who Jesus is and all that he has done, what can we do but worship and give thanks? These are things that are always worth reflecting on, every day. But they are particularly worth reflecting on as we approach the season of Thanksgiving, and then of Advent and Christmas.

Along those lines, here is a selection from Gregory of Nazianzus, a fourth century father of the early church (referred to by his contemporaries simply as "The Theologian") that highlights the mystery and wonder of the Incarnation. This is from Gregory's Third Theological Oration:

What he was he continued to be; what he was not he took to himself. In the beginning he was, uncaused; for what is the cause of God? But afterward for a cause he was born, and that cause was that you might be saved ... He was laid in a manger—but he was glorified by angels, and proclaimed by a star, and worshipped by the Magi... He was baptized as a man—but he remitted sins as God... He was tempted as man, but he conquered as God... He hungered—but he fed thousands; yea, he is the bread that gives life, and that is of heaven. He thirsted—but he cried, "If any man thirst, let him come to me and drink." He was wearied, but he is the rest of them that are weary and heavy-laden. He was heavy with sleep, but he walked lightly over the sea. He prays, but he hears prayer. He weeps, but he causes tears to cease. He asks where Lazarus was laid, for he was man; but he raises Lazarus, for he was God. He is sold, and very cheap, but he redeems the world, and that at a great price. As a sheep he is led to the slaughter, but he is the shepherd of Israel, and now of the whole world also.

*(continued on page 2)*

(The Pastor's Pen, continued))

As a lamb he is silent, yet he is the Word, and is proclaimed by the voice of one crying in the wilderness. He is bruised and wounded, but he heals every disease and every infirmity. He is lifted up and nailed to the tree, but by the tree of life he restores us... He is given vinegar to drink mingled with gall. Who? He who turned the water into wine, who is the destroyer of the bitter taste, who is sweetness and altogether desired. He lays down his life, but he has power to take it again. He dies, but he gives life, and by his death destroys death. He is buried but he rises again; he goes down into hell, but he brings up the souls; he ascends to heaven, and shall come again to judge the quick and the dead.

Amen. May you sense the wonder of these things anew during this Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas season. The Lord bless and keep you all.



**WOMEN IN THE WORD: A Workshop**

Women in the Word "Partied Intensely!"

The 2018 weekend of "partying intensely" with God's Word has come and gone! Studying the Bible together is both fun – a delight! – and hard work. The Word is worth the work! The Author is worthy of our worship and obedient response.

Thirty-four churches, including one from Uganda, were represented. These churches belonged to ten different denominations: ARP, Baptist, Bible Fellowship Churches, CMA, EPC, Episcopal, OPC, PCA, SBC, and United Methodist. In addition, women came from seven non-denominational congregations. The Workshop has the privilege of serving Christ's Church by "seeding and fertilizing" an informed, reasoned and reverent approach to studying Scripture.

Mark your calendars for 2019! Women in the Word will be October 25 and 26, again at Calvary. Rachel Vendsel will be the Bible teacher for the large group sessions. Her topic is "We Have Seen His Glory: Finding Christ in Old Testament Appearances of God." These times are designed to illustrate what careful Scripture study looks like and produces.

Some of you will remember Rachel and Mike. They were very active at Calvary while both finished advanced degrees at three different institutions in the area. The Vendsels frequently taught in our adult Sunday School. And, during their stay, Rachel was both a Study Group Leader and trainer for the Workshop.

As always, special thanks to Calvary for the use of church facilities. They are perfect for this event! Thanks to Jim Gilchrist, Brian Taggart, Pennye Goodman, Barb Zlotnik, Yvonne Bonomo, Jackie Gober, Judy Hertzog, Susan Fitzwater, Becky McKay, Jean Alderman, Wes Anderson, and Fran Widmer for faithfully carrying out their varied roles before and during the Workshop.

On **October 25 and 26, 2019**, come "party intensely" with God's Word!

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

The annual Children and Youth Christmas pageant will take place on Sunday evening, December 16 at 6:00 pm. The program will last about a half hour followed by refreshments of cookies and snacks. We hope you can plan to attend and invite family members and friends to this Christmas tradition.

**The rehearsal schedule** for all EXCEPT the toddler and Pre/K class will be:

Friday evening, Nov. 30 at 6:00—7:30 pm

Sunday Dec. 9, brown bag lunch following the service and then rehearsal until 2:00 pm.

Sunday, Dec. 16 during Sunday school (this rehearsal will include our toddler and Pre/K classes)



**CONCERN CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

We are partnering with an organization called Concern, once again this year to provide Christmas gifts for children in foster care. You can sign up in the room off the Narthex. Gifts should be returned unwrapped, by Sunday, November 25. (Oversized gift bags are welcomed.)

**SAVE THE DATE:**

**ANNUAL TALENT SHOW: JANUARY 11**

**ENCOURAGERS' CORNER**

Our 2018-2019 year is off to a great start, but don't let that stop you from joining. New members are always welcome.

We are currently working on fall gifts for November followed by school supplies for our children from the homework helper group. If you have a heart for Christ, we have a place for you. Please consider joining us for our next meeting, November 13th, then the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 in the kitchen. If you can not join, but would like to support this ministry, please consider a monetary gift. Hebrews 10:24-25

If you have a need for encouragement or know someone who does, please call the church office (215-659-0554) Carolyn Vighetti (267-307-5350) or any of the E girls.

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**Baby Shower**

All Women of Calvary are invited to attend a Baby Shower in honor of Brittany Gomez  
On Saturday, Nov. 17 from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.  
In the Manse.

Brittany is having a girl and is registered at Amazon. <https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/brittany-gomez-january-2019->

[willowgrove/1H7403ACFCE40?ref=cm\\_sw\\_em\\_r\\_px\\_MOBILE\\_g1uwqKl6jydh](https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/brittany-gomez-january-2019-willowgrove/1H7403ACFCE40?ref=cm_sw_em_r_px_MOBILE_g1uwqKl6jydh)

Please RSVP to Ellen Gustafson, [Pielady620@hotmail.com](mailto:Pielady620@hotmail.com) or 215-657-6146 so we know how to plan

