



Connections

A Publication of Calvary Baptist Church

January 2026 | Volume 31 | Number 1

Sunday Services

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

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday
9:00am – 3:00pm
Friday
9:00am – 12:00pm
(Office Closed January 1 in
celebration of the New Year)

Visit us online

www.CalvaryCR.org



[www.facebook.com/
CalvaryBaptistChurchCedar
Rapids](https://www.facebook.com/CalvaryBaptistChurchCedarRapids)

Happy
New Year!

Please give updated
contact information
to the church office.

WINTER MINISTRY TRAINING ELECTIVES

We encourage everyone to participate in Ministry Training Electives at 6:00pm on Sunday evenings, beginning January 25. This program is intended to equip believers with practical knowledge and skills to help them become all that God wants them to be.

THE WAY OF THE MASTER

The Way of the Master trains believers to simply and confidently share the gospel with family, friends, and strangers. Learn to overcome your fears by using a proven, powerfully effective way to make the gospel make sense. You won't be at a loss for words. You don't need to be an expert in apologetics. Instead, you'll learn the forgotten biblical principle of bypassing the intellect and speaking directly to the conscience—the way Jesus did. Kirk and Ray not only tell you how to witness but also show you, through on-the-street conversations with gang members, atheists, cult members, intellectuals, etc. You will be inspired and motivated as you learn, watch, and then do.

Session 1 — Cultivating Compassion for the Lost
Session 2 — Discovering Hell's Best Kept Secret
Session 3 — Learning to Overcome Fear
Session 4 — Practicing What You Preach
Session 5 — Crafting the Message
Session 6 — Answering the Top Ten Questions
Session 7 — Exposing the Myth of the Modern Message
Session 8 — Spreading Your Wings

GOD'S DEVIL:

THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF HOW SATAN'S REBELLION SERVES GOD'S PURPOSES

Many Christians are oblivious to the devil and his schemes. Others look for him everywhere. All need to hear that the devil roams about, but on God's leash. In this DVD, pastor and scholar Erwin Lutzer elaborates on the message of his book in 10 engaging lessons that will teach you about Satan and his role in God's plan for the world, give you confidence in God's eternal victory over Satan, and equip you to withstand Satan's schemes. This will comfort and strengthen you in your Christian walk as you learn of God's sovereign power over Satan.

Session 1 — Putting the Devil in His Place
Session 2 — The Star that Bit the Dust
Session 3 — There is a Serpent in Our Garden
Session 4 — The Serpent's New Religion
Session 5 — The Serpent Strikes Back
Session 6 — The Serpent is Crushed
Session 7 — The Serpent, God's Servant
Session 8/9 — What the Serpent Wants from You/Closing the Door When the Serpent Knocks
Session 10 — Neutralizing the Serpent's Poison
Session 11/12 — The Serpent is Cast Out of Heaven/The Serpent in Eternal Humiliation

TWELVE EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN (STUDY FOR TEEN GIRLS)

The teen girls will be continuing their study of *Twelve Extraordinary Women* by John MacArthur. We will see that the God to whom these women were so faithful is the same God who continues to mold and guide us today. As you meet these women in Scripture, they will challenge you, motivate you, encourage you, and inspire you with love for the God whom they trusted, served, and loved. If you are a teen girl in grades 7–12, please join us!

Family Forum

LETTERS OF APPRECIATION

We thank God for you and all you do in our community. This letter is to acknowledge and thank you for your generous donation to our food pantry. With food insecurity growing, we experienced 123 households for Thanksgiving meals this year. Thanks to your support we were able to make Thanksgiving special for each of those households.

Thomas Moore, Mt. Zion Food Pantry Committee

Thank you for remembering our family for Thanksgiving. The gift of a turkey dinner was so kind. Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful for all of the things that God has graciously given us. One of my best gifts is the friends at Calvary. Thank you and may God bless you all for your kindness and generosity.

The Joe Korch Family

I never thought a 100th birthday could be so much fun! Thank you for coming to my celebration and for your beautiful cards and special remarks. I am so blessed! My church family is so very special.

Nadene Roberts

Thank you so much for thinking of our families this Thanksgiving and providing us with delicious food for the holiday. It relieved stress and saved us time after a very long year of multiple medical issues within our families. We are so appreciative!

The Hoy and Hale Families

Thank you for the fruit and cookies! We appreciate them so much.

Verne & Violet Johnson

Thank you so much for all the love and support you have shown us through your words, cards, and gifts. We are rejoicing that we will one day see our "Papa" again and are resting in the assurance that he is with his Savior.

The Eastburn Family

Thank you for the Amazon gift card. We are so very grateful for you and your support and encouragement over the years.

Dan & Esther Penney

Thank you for the Amazon Gift Card! We are always blessed by your love and support and are grateful for this wonderful gift.

Richard & Mirian Sturz

Thank you so much for the Amazon gift card! Janet and I truly appreciate your kindness and generosity throughout the year. Being remembered with such a thoughtful gift adds a special spice to our celebration. What a blessing it is to partner with you in Kingdom work. May God richly bless your salt and light as you glorify Him during your Christmas celebrations.

Fred & Janet Young

Thank you for the Amazon gift card!

Randy & Kaye Hacker

Thank you so much for the Amazon gift card. This will come in handy as we purchase gifts for friends and family; or perhaps we will buy something for our new house in Spain! Regardless, it was thoughtful of you and the mission team, and we appreciate it.

Bruce & Linda Thomas

Just a quick note to say thank you so much for the generous Amazon gift card you sent us for Christmas! What a huge blessing that is! We really appreciate your prayers, care, and support for us and the ministry here.

Nathan, Carey, Bold, and True Statezni

Thank you for the Amazon Gift Card! A nice surprise, and thoughtful. God bless you folks, this Christmas 2025.

Alan & Melody Pieratt

Thank you for your continued prayers, support and the Amazon Gift Card! We're thankful to God for you!

Sasha & Elizabeth Morozov

CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY

We offer our condolences to Steven & Brianna Hagemeyer and family on the death of Steven's father, Chris, on December 2.

We offer our condolences to David & Paige Eastburn and family on the death of David's father, Bill, on December 3.

We offer our condolences to Steve & Judy Anderson and their extended family on the death of Steve's brother Jack's wife, Chris Anderson, on December 4.

We offer our condolences to the family and friends of Jamie Moses, who went to be with the Lord on December 5.

We offer our condolences to Beth Patterson and her extended family on the death of her husband, Tom, on December 11. Beth is a sister to Gary Hensch and Marlene Aswegan.

We offer our condolences to Don & Pam Winchester and family on the death of Don's stepsister, Joaquin Jones, on December 22.

BABY NEWS

Joshua & Allie Melanson are celebrating the birth of their beautiful baby boy, Ignatius Michael Vernon Melanson, on Wednesday, November 26.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Burton Rodman
CedarStone Senior Living
4715 Algonquin Dr
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
CedarStone's Phone Number: (319) 595-2060

Travis & Sarah Caldwell
1032 34th St NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Happy New Year! CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	2	3 6:00pm Koinonia Christmas Party
4 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 10:00am Inner Mission 10:30am Worship Service (Communion) NO EVENING ACTIVITIES	5 6:30pm Ladies Night Out	6 9:15am MUMs 6:30pm Deaconess Meeting	7 9:00am Staff Prayer 6:30pm Awana, Adult Bible Study and Prayer 6:30pm Youth Group New Year Show and Tell	8	9 5:30pm Men's Ministry Board Game Night	10 10:00am-3:00pm Positive Impressions
11 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 10:00am Inner Mission 10:30am Worship Service 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Sonshine Singers 6:00pm "Truth Rising" (Documentary Video)	12 6:30pm Fellowship Team Meeting	13 9:15am MUMs Leadership Meeting 7:00pm Trustee Committee and Missions Team Meetings	14 9:00am Staff Prayer 6:30pm Awana, Adult Bible Study and Prayer 6:30pm Youth Group Winter Birthday Party (December-February)	15	16 <div>"Arctic Adventure" Weekend for Youth</div>	17
18 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 10:00am Inner Mission 10:30am Worship Service 12:00pm Potluck Dinner, Annual Election of Officers, Quarterly Ministry Update 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Sonshine Singers "Arctic Adventure"	19	20 9:15am MUMs 6:00pm Board of Deacons Meeting	21 9:00am Staff Prayer 6:30pm Awana, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study and Prayer	22	23	24
25 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 10:00am Inner Mission 10:30am Worship Service 4:30pm Choir Rehearsal 6:00pm Sonshine Singers 6:00pm Ministry Training Electives	26	27	28 9:00am Staff Prayer 6:30pm Awana, Youth Group, Adult Bible Study and Prayer	29	30	31

January Birthdays

1 Sondra Smale	David Sanders	16 Jeannette Frey	Deborah Borum
2 Ricardo Etienne	7 Morgan Walker	17 Marlene Aswegan	23 Rob Kaufman
3 Ryan Hale	11 James LeMont	Aiden Hale	26 John Lewis
4 Daniel Hunter	12 Steve Anderson	Alex Lykkegaard	27 Sandra Tokpa
5 Joe Novak	Toby Slippy	18 Jason Garlick	29 Ayisha Elichme
6 Steven Hageimeier	14 Colleen Abodeely	Marilyn Seamans	Judy Potter
Sarah Mulvihill	Audrey Hill	Don Winchester	30 Jared Bourne
Myah Pettit	15 Gerik Bourne	21 Samantha Balson	



POTLUCK DINNER, ANNUAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS, AND WINTER QUARTERLY MINISTRY UPDATE

Everyone is invited to a soup and chili potluck dinner in the church fellowship hall at **noon on Sunday, January 18**. Bring a pot of soup or chili or a dessert to share. Drinks, bread and crackers, and table service will be provided. Following the dinner, members are urged to stay for our annual election of church officers and the winter Quarterly Ministry Update. Please help us plan and prepare by signing up at the Welcome Center, on Breeze, or by contacting the church office.

KOINONIA CHRISTMAS PARTY

Young adults are invited to a night of joy, laughter, and fellowship on Saturday, January 3 from 6pm to 9pm in the youth building. There will be games, food, music, and plenty of Christmas cheer — don't miss it! Please bring a \$10 wrapped gift for the gift exchange. Let's celebrate the birth of the Savior together!

MEN'S MINISTRY BOARD GAME NIGHT

Men, bring some of your favorite board games and a favorite snack to share and join us at the church at 5:30pm on Friday, January 9 for a fun evening of fellowship!

"TRUTH RISING" DOCUMENTARY VIDEO

Truth Rising isn't just a documentary—it's a call to action at a critical time in our culture. As faith, identity, and morality are being redefined, this documentary exposes the civilizational moment we are living in. Through powerful stories and expert insights, it reveals how ordinary people can make an extraordinary impact—by boldly choosing courage over fear. As the world redefines truth, Truth Rising offers clarity, courage, and a Christ-centered path forward. We will show this video at Calvary at 6:00pm on Sunday, January 11. Please join us!

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE WITH CARENETWORKCR

CareNetworkCR urgently needs more ESL volunteers. Their next professional training is on January 9–10 at Veritas Church. If you feel called to helping neighbors learn English and building cross-cultural relationships, please email Greg at gregs@carenetworkcr.org.

CareNetworkCR also is looking for additional Call Center Representatives and administrative assistants to help respond to needs within our community with compassion, prayer, and resource guidance. If you have a heart to serve and are gifted in listening, caring, or administrative support, CareNetworkCR would love to talk to you. Email Dawn at wecare@carenetworkcr.org for more information.

WINTER BLOOD DRIVE

Calvary Baptist Church will be hosting ImpactLife for another blood drive on Monday, February 2, from 2:30pm to 6:00pm. To be eligible to donate on February 2, your previous donation must have been before December 9. Your donation could be the blessing needed by a patient right here in our own community. For more information or to sign up, go to www.bloodcenter.org or contact Nadene Roberts. *Appointments are required!*

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Ladies, you and your friends are invited to enjoy dinner and fellowship at 6:30pm on Monday, January 5 at Boulder Tap House, 4515 Westdale Pkwy SW. If you plan to attend, call or text Deb Gaeta at 319-491-7720 or email djgaeta@myctl.net so she will know how many will be attending. If you need a ride, let Deb know and she will arrange for someone to meet that need.

POSITIVE IMPRESSIONS

Positive Impressions is scheduled for Saturday, January 10, from 10:00am to 3:00pm in room 23/24. Ladies, invite your friends to join you in working on favorite craft projects. This is an enjoyable and non-threatening way to spend time developing relationships and building bridges in order to make a positive impression for Christ on your unsaved friends and family members. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Kim Nelson (319-640-9856) and bring a snack or drink to share with the group.



9:15am–11:15am

(Registration at 9:00am)

January 6 and 20

(1st & 3rd Tuesdays)