

# Connections

A Publication of Calvary Baptist Church

May 2026 | Volume 31 | Number 5

## 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

*(The church office will be closed on Monday, May 25 in celebration of the Memorial Day holiday.)*

## Visit us online

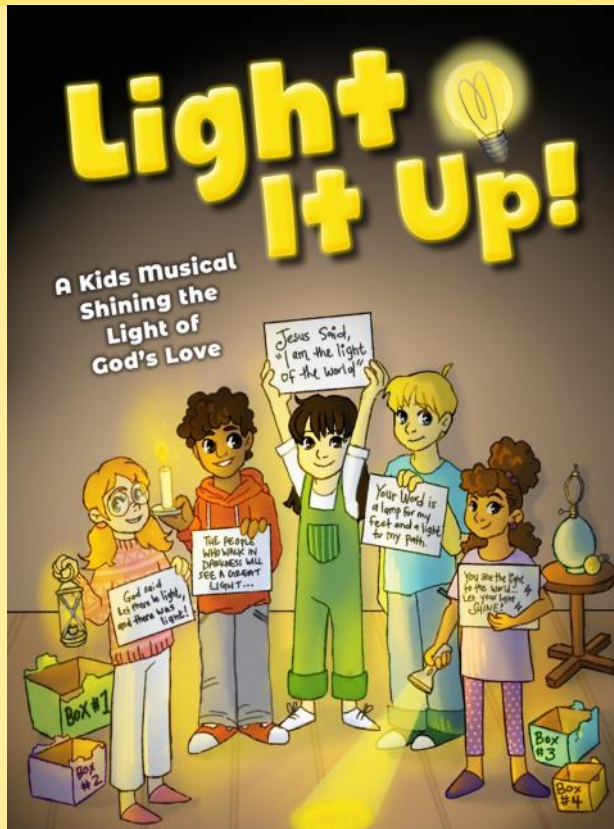
[www.CalvaryCR.org](http://www.CalvaryCR.org)



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



Memorial Day



## LIGHT IT UP! WITH THE SONSHINE SINGERS

What do a light bulb, a flameless candle, a lantern, a flashlight, and glow sticks have to do with the Bible? Come Sunday evening, May 3, at 6:00pm to explore this question with our Sunshine Singers children's choir, as they present "Light It Up!" Invite your friends and family to join you at Calvary that evening for this entertaining and enlightening musical.



## AWANA AWARDS SUPPER

The Awana year ends with a special awards night on Wednesday, May 6. Awana kids and their families are invited to enjoy a supper provided by the Awana leaders at 6:00pm in the gym, followed by an awards ceremony at 7:00pm in the sanctuary to honor the efforts of our clubbers and leaders.

### **MEN'S MINISTRY STAR WARS FAMILY FEUD**

May the Force be with you at 7pm on Saturday, May 2 as we play Star Wars themed Family Feud! Anyone (not just men) can fill out the survey ahead of time to give us funny answers to use!



### **LADIES NIGHT OUT**

Ladies, you are invited to meet for dinner at Breakfast Barn & Lunch House (3980 Center Point Rd NE) at **6:00pm** on Monday, May 4. If you plan to attend, please call or text Deb Gaeta at 319-491-7720 so she will know how many will be attending. If you want to come but need a ride, let Deb know and she will arrange for someone to pick you up.

### **MOTHERS UPLIFTING MOTHERS (MUMs)**

MUMs will meet Tuesday, May 5 at 9:15am for the *final meeting at church* for the school year. MUMs will resume in September. Contact Katie Staab for more information.

### **POSITIVE IMPRESSIONS**

Positive Impressions is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 10:00am – 3:00pm in room 23/24. Invite your friends to join you in working on favorite craft projects. This is an enjoyable way to spend time developing relationships 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 and bring a snack or drink to share with the group.

### **PARENT-CHILD DEDICATION**

A parent-child dedication ceremony is planned for the Sunday morning worship service on Mother's Day, May 10. If you would like to participate in this public expression of your commitment to "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord," please notify the church office.

### **BRIDAL SHOWER FOR ELLA CRITTENDEN**

Ladies, you're joyfully invited to a bridal shower celebrating Ella Crittenden as she prepares to say "I do"! Join us on May 24 from 2-4pm in the church gym for an afternoon filled with love, laughter, and blooming happiness. Let's shower Ella with love as her next chapter is about to begin. Kindly RSVP to Jen Crittenden at 319-721-2460. We can't wait to celebrate together! Ella is registered at Amazon. Feel free to use the QR code to get to the registry.



### **SALT & PEPPER RETIREES FELLOWSHIP**

Retirees are invited to meet for lunch and a program on Tuesday, May 26 at 11:30am. More information to come.

### **KOINONIA COOKOUT**

Young adults, join us for a cookout at Calvary on May 23 at 5:00pm. We will roast hot dogs and brats and play volleyball, kickball, and other outdoor games. Silverware, plates, cups, hot dogs, brats, buns, and condiments will be provided. Please bring lawn chairs, a side dish or chips, drinks, and roasting sticks if you have them. Please RSVP to Chris Brown.

### **ATTENTION: 6<sup>th</sup> GRADERS**

Starting Wednesday, May 13, the youth who are completing 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to join the youth group in the youth building on Wednesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:00pm.

### **YOUTH XJ CONFERENCE AT MOODY BIBLE INSTITUTE**

XJ (Experience Jesus) is a conference for high school students and is scheduled for June 22-27. The cost is \$500 + \$\$ for two meals. The application and a \$100 deposit are due May 3.

### **HIDDEN GEMS DONATION DRIVE**

We will host a donation drive May 31-June 7, to provide quality items for Hidden Gems, the resale shop that supports the mission of our local ministry partner CareNetworkCR. You could begin now to identify and set aside things like gently used or new clothing, shoes, jewelry and other accessories, and home décor. See information at [www.hiddengemscr.shop](http://www.hiddengemscr.shop). Possessions that are no longer meeting a need for you could directly or indirectly become blessings for people in need in our community.

### **DISCOVERY CLASS**

If you want to become a member of Calvary or just want more information about the church, we invite you to attend the Discovery Class on Saturday, June 6, from 9:00am to noon. Please notify the church office if you plan to attend. If childcare would be helpful, let us know, and we will make arrangements to meet that need.

### **NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER**

May 7 is the National Day of Prayer. The theme for this annual event is based on 1 Chronicles 16:24 — "Glorify God among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations." Please set aside some time on this day to focus on fervent prayer for your neighbors and your nation.

### **NOTES OF APPRECIATION**

We wanted to say a big thank you to everyone who attended the baby shower, and for the support, prayers, cards and gifts! We're excited to welcome our little girl and are so thankful for our wonderful church family!

Travis & Sarah Caldwell

Thank you so much for the check we received from the Missions Conference offering. It is always such a joy to reconnect with all of you. We always feel so loved and encouraged when we are with you.

Isaac & Beth Gilana

It was great to be with you at the Missions Conference. It was a well planned and enjoyable event. Thank you for inviting CareNetworkCR to be a part of it. Thank you for all your support to our mission. I was really encouraged at the Men's Breakfast meeting and left newly recharged to go forward.

Greg Sharp (CareNetworkCR)

So many ways & reasons to say THANK YOU! for all the ways you engage with the mission of CareNetworkCR. Thank you for the invitation to speak at your Missions Conference, the abundant financial giving, promotion of CareNetworkCR, the volunteers, prayers, and the ESL school. Thank you for joining the fellowship at Altars & Arrows. We are excited for more relationships & kingdom impact.

Dawn Hunter (CareNetworkCR)



Tokpa Family  
6628 College Park Ct SW, #2  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:00am-12:00pm Sonshine Singers Dress Rehearsal 7:00pm-9:00pm Men's Ministry — Star Wars Family Feud
<b>3</b> 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 10:00am Inner Mission 10:30am Worship Service (Communion)  6:00pm Sonshine Singers Present "Light It Up!"	<b>4</b>   6:30pm Ladies Night Out	<b>5</b> 6:30am Elders Meeting  9:15am MUMs	<b>6</b> 9:00am Staff Prayer   6:00pm Awana Banquet 6:30pm Youth Group	<b>7 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER</b>   2:00pm GriefShare	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>  10:00am-3:00pm Positive Impressions
<b>10 MOTHER'S DAY</b> 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 10:00am Inner Mission 10:30am Worship Service (Parent-Child Dedication)	<b>11</b>   6:30pm Fellowship Ministry Team Meeting	<b>12</b> 6:30am Elders Meeting  7:00pm Trustee Committee & Missions Ministry Meetings	<b>13</b> 9:00am Staff Prayer   6:30pm Youth Group and Adult Bible Study & Prayer	<b>14</b>   2:00pm GriefShare	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 10:00am Inner Mission 10:30am Worship Service	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 6:30am Elders Meeting  9:15am MUMs Picnic at Bever Park (final)	<b>20</b> 9:00am Staff Prayer   6:30pm Youth Group and Adult Bible Study & Prayer	<b>21</b>   2:00pm GriefShare	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  5:00pm Koinonia Cookout
<b>24</b> <i>No Sunday School, Adult Bible Classes, and Inner Mission</i>  10:30am Worship Service (Senior Recognition) 2:00pm Ella Crittenden Bridal Shower	<b>25 MEMORIAL DAY</b>  Office Closed  1:00pm – 4:00pm Mari Crittenden Grad Party	<b>26</b> 6:30am Elders Meeting  11:30am Salt & Pepper Retirees Fellowship	<b>27</b> 9:00am Staff Prayer   6:30pm Youth Group and Adult Bible Study & Prayer	<b>28</b>   6:30pm Deacon & Deaconess Committee Meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>  2:00pm – 4:00pm Tessa Slippy Grad Party
<b>31</b> 9:00am Sunday School & Adult Bible Classes 10:00am Inner Mission 10:30am Worship Service 5:00pm Levi Hanna Grad Party at Camp Tanager						



3 Taylor Bredenberg	11 Joey Goodwin	21 Steve Howard
Jayla Ineza	Donald Winchester	22 Samuel Tokpa
5 Donna Smejkal	12 Sonja Truitt	25 Claudine Nyambo
8 Gary Hensch	14 Chris Jones	Brianna Hagemeyer
Eliana Horning	16 Verne Johnson	26 Sadie Hanna
9 Lori AbbenGoodwin	Troy Patton	28 Ron Ehrle
Logan Hill	Janice Tomash	29 Ann Eckert
Sharon Pelton	19 Abigail Hauptly	30 Linda Pearson
10 John Mulvihill	Katie Staab	Anton Sandersfeld
Heidi Gritten	20 Carl Fields	31 Ben Hagemeyer

# Senior Recognition

Sunday, May 24 during the Worship Service

**MARI CRITTENDEN**

480 B Ave NE  
Walford, IA 52351  
School: Washington  
High School

**LEVI HANNA**

24556 35th St  
Martelle, IA 52305  
School: Mt Vernon High  
School

**ABBY HAUPTLY**

19 Chapelridge  
Circle, Apt C  
Marion, IA 52302  
School: Home School

**TESSA SLIPPY**

1650 11th St NW  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52405  
School: Home School

**SANDRA TOKPA**

6628 College Park  
Court SW, #2  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52404  
Prairie High School

**Mari's Grad Party**

May 25, 1pm-4pm  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall

**Levi's Grad Party**

May 31, 5pm-7:30pm  
The Grand Lodge at  
Camp Tanager

**Abby's Grad Party**

June 7, 2pm-5pm  
Noelridge Park  
Creekside Pavilion

**Tessa's Grad Party**

May 30, 2pm-4pm  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Youth Building

**Sandra's Grad Party**

June 13, 2pm-4pm  
Calvary Baptist Church  
Fellowship Hall

## SPRING VALLEY BIBLE CAMP

5 <sup>th</sup> /6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Camp	July 5-10
7 <sup>th</sup> /8 <sup>th</sup> Grade Camp	July 12-17
High School Camp	July 19-24
3 <sup>rd</sup> /4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Camp	July 26-29

Registration and payment can be made online at [www.springvalleycamp.org/](http://www.springvalleycamp.org/). Please register based on the grade your child will be entering in the fall. There is a \$25 discount for registering before June 1, AND Calvary will provide a subsidy of \$40 for each child entering grades 3-12 if they are regular participants in our church programs. Submit camp receipts to the church office to receive a reimbursement. If financial assistance is needed, contact the church office about scholarship funds.

*\*Please also contact the church office if you would like to help kids go to camp by providing scholarship funds.\**

## SUMMER BIBLE CLASS FOR ADULTS AND YOUTH

(Sunday Mornings, 9:00am - 10:00am, from May 31 through August 30)

### "Understanding the Old Testament" by Paul Benware

*The New Testament Scriptures will never be properly understood by a person if the Old Testament Scriptures essentially remain a mystery to him.*

Most Christians do not have a clear understanding of the pattern, unity, or progression of the Old Testament. They can tell stories of Moses, Noah, and David, but they aren't sure how these events fit together. What's more, they don't fully appreciate the doctrines found in the thirty-nine books between Genesis and Malachi. However, the Old Testament does not have to be mysterious or confusing. Dr. Benware offers a chronological approach, to give you a bird's-eye view of the Old Testament, and reveals important details and themes. Topics include foundational concepts such as "Returning to Eden" and "The Covenant with Abraham," which he identifies as central to understanding the overarching message of the whole Bible. If you want a better understanding of all of God's Word, this video series is a good place to start.

Dr. Benware holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Los Angeles Baptist College, a Master of Theology from Dallas Theological Seminary, and a Doctor of Theology from Grace Theological Seminary. He has served on the faculty of Moody Bible Institute (where Pastor Jay was one of his students), Los Angeles Baptist College, Philadelphia Biblical University, and Arizona Christian University.



## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Mark your calendars for June 15-19, from 9:00am to 11:30am each day. Start inviting children ages 4 years through 6th grade to come for an exciting week of learning from God's word through Bible lessons, music, crafts, games, snacks, and more! Please register at [www.calvarycr.org/](http://www.calvarycr.org/)

Emerald Crossing is rooted in Psalm 23, helping kids move from anxiety to peace by trusting the Good Shepherd. Each day, kids explore a verse from Psalm 23 and a story from David's life, learning that God leads, protects, provides, and stays with them always. It's a powerful journey that will give kids confidence to face life with faith, knowing that they're never alone.

*We will need lots of volunteers! If you are available and willing to help, please call or text Roxann Von Lienen at 319-361-0215 or email her at [rvonlienen@imonmail.com](mailto:rvonlienen@imonmail.com).*