

Calvary Comment¹



**Pastor Paul & Phyllis
Zwarich**



**Calvary Lutheran Church
San Angelo, TX
January 2024**

From the Pastor

Some time ago I came across an article describing an “**Epiphany House Blessing**” which I would like to share with you. But before I do, I would like to introduce you to the Epiphany Season which begins on January 6 that we will celebrate with a baked potato luncheon in the Fellowship Hall. Come and join us for our “**Epiphany Baked Potato Luncheon.**”

Have you ever worked on a very hard project, and then suddenly you came up with a solution to the problem you were encountering. If so, some might say that you just experienced an “**Epiphany,**” or a revealing moment.

Well, that is exactly what Epiphany is in the church. On January 6, we celebrate the “**Epiphany of our Lord,**” the date in which the visit of the Magi to the Christ Child is remembered. And then, this celebration continues and is highlighted in the church all the way to Ash Wednesday. That is why we call this time in the church calendar “**The Season of Epiphany.**”

Did you know that the celebration is one of the oldest celebrations in the church, second only to Easter. And that we celebrate the season several different ways in the New Year. On the First Sunday of Epiphany, which will occur on January 7, 2024 this year, we lift up the **Baptism of Our Lord** Sunday. And we conclude the Epiphany Season with the **Feast of the Transfiguration** which will be held on Sunday February 11, 2024.

OK, here is how we can celebrate Epiphany on January 6, 2024. Using a piece of chalk, mark the doorway to your home with the Epiphany marking that I will explain in the next paragraph to remind everyone that Jesus came to our world to free us from sin and death and give us a share of His very life.

And how should we mark the entrance to our dwellings. The “**Epiphany House Blessing**” suggests we use the numerals of the new year and the initials CMB. The letters stand for the traditional names of the Magi (Casper, Melchior, and Balthasar). CMB also stands for the Latin words *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, or “*Christ Bless This Home.*”

Using this simple blessing we symbolically remind ourselves of the salvation Jesus offers and proclaim Him once again as the Savior of the world. This is how it should look. **20CMB24** If you need a piece of chalk, there is chalk available in the Narthex for you to use.

I pray that you all have a Blessed New Year and Festive Epiphany Season.

Pastor Paul



Worship News

Bee Rose

How many people are going to make a new year's resolution this year? Here's a suggestion, if you want to make a resolution, please consider helping us out by volunteering for positions in our services.

Something to ponder:

"I praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well" (Psalm 139:14).

I grew up and was reared by wrinkled hands that had already raised the previous generation. I didn't feel I was enough— my upbringing was not picturesque, yet the rose-colored lens of life and family is misleading. It is those days when we don't feel as though we are enough, when we're anxious, have chaotic thoughts, and when our voices are muted that we need to hear – you are enough. You are seen, you are heard, and your presence is needed. Worth is not determined by your pedigree, education level, or accolades but by the content of your heart.

You are enough! You are perfectly imperfect and a part of the beautiful tapestry of the church with its rough edges. I echo David's Psalm 139 saying you are wonderfully made. You are cut in the image of God, and in that image, there are no flaws. In that image, you are loved unconditionally, given reassurance, and blanketed with grace.

This message is excerpted from "Hear me roar" by Ralen M. Robinson in the February 2023 Café online magazine.

Q&A

1. Which of the following was a father-son pair?
 - a. Mahlon and Ammon, b. Isaac and Ishmael, c. Joseph and Manasseh, d. Abraham and Reuben
2. Who was the father of Tamar's twin sons?
 - a. Er, b. Judah, c. Onan, d. Shelah
3. Whose mother was told to drink no wine during her pregnancy?
 - a. Sampson b. Jesus, c. Caleb, d. John the Baptist?

Answers :

1. C. Joseph and Manasseh. See Genesis 41:51.
2. B. Judah. Tamar disguised herself and pretended to be a harlot, and lured her father- in-law Judah. A pregnancy Tamar was brought before Judah for punishment. When Judah saw his signet and realized he was the father, he repented. See Genesis 38:6-26.
3. C. a. Samson. Samson's mother was instructed not to drink wine or eat any unclean things during her

DATE 2023	Assist. Minister	Reader (Lector)	Tech	Flowers	Altar Guild for the month
Jan 7 Baptism of our Lord		Phyllis Zwarich	John Ulrich		Diane Ross Kara Martinez
Jan 14 2 Epiphany	Joyce O'Connell	Bee Rose			
Jan 21 3 Epiphany		Betty Thane			
Jan 28 4 Epiphany	Bee Rose				

Epiphany



Epiphany is January 6th, twelve days after Christmas.

Epiphany is derived from the Greek word meaning to show or reveal. Christ was revealed!

It celebrates the arrival of the Magi (Three Wise Men) who visited Jesus. We see their visit as a sign that Christ's message is for all nations.



GOLD
myrrh
& incense

Thank you teachers & youth!



POTATO DINNER

Saturday, Jan. 6th 2024 at 11 am, we will have our annual Epiphany Baked Potato Luncheon. **Our Guest speaker will be Lou St. Germain. He will talk about his experiences in becoming a rancher.** You will not want to miss this special event!

After Lou's talk, we will share a baked potato lunch. Please bring your favorite topping. RSVP to Pam Ulrich, so we can get a count of how many potatoes we need to bake.

Thank you!

RSVP to Pam at
325-942-9404.



I wish everyone at Calvary Lutheran Church a very merry Christmas & a blessed and prosperous New Year!

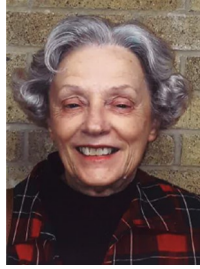
~ *Helen Brandenberger*



Fellowship News

Dorothy St. Germain

Doable New Year Resolutions Just For Today! One Day at a Time!



No New Year's Day would be complete without Dear Abby's oft-requested New Year's resolutions, based on the original credo of Al-Anon--with a few variations of Abby's own:

JUST FOR TODAY, I will live through this day only. I will not brood about yesterday or obsess about tomorrow. I will not set far-reaching goals or try to overcome all my problems at once. I know that I can do something for 24 hours that would overwhelm me if I had to keep it up for a lifetime.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will be happy. I will not dwell on thoughts that depress me. If my mind fills with clouds, I will chase them away and fill it with sunshine.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will accept what is. I will face reality. I will correct those things I can correct, and accept those I cannot.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will improve my mind. I will read something that requires effort, thought and concentration. I will not be a mental loafer.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will make a conscious effort to be agreeable. I will be kind and courteous to those who cross my path, and I will not speak ill of others. I'll improve my appearance, speak softly and not interrupt when someone else is talking. Just for today, I'll refrain from improving anybody except myself.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will do something positive to improve my health. If I'm a smoker, I'll quit. If I'm overweight, I'll eat healthily--if only for today. And just for today, I'll get off the couch and take a brisk walk, even if it's only around the block.

JUST FOR TODAY, I will gather the courage to do what is right and take responsibility for my own actions.

To one and all, a happy, healthy New Year!
Love, Abby

***From 2003 Dear Abby newspaper column.*



ANNIVERSARIES

1/3/2009

Dave & Sassy Puckett

1/24/1970

Fritz & Margaret Leifeste

BIRTHDAYS

9 Doris Wendland

11 Ann Helm

11 Rosalee King

21 Abigail Scott

21 Curt Tucker

23 John Rowoldt

26 Julius Bricker

31 Denise Cooley





HAPPY NEW YOU!

Changing the calendar each January is a reminder that God makes all things new.

Directions: Use the clues and the calendar code to complete 2 Corinthians 5:17, ESV.

JANUARY 2024						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	God	night	word	in	love	Jesus
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
glory	therefore	speak	give	light	Christ	a
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
saw	beginning	anyone	waters	help	is	many
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
he	again	through	earth	made	while	back
28	29	30	31			
new	if	and	creation			

The second Monday _ _ _ _ _

The last Monday _ _

The 16th _ _ _ _ _

One day before the 20th _ _

The day before the first Friday _ _

The last weekday of the second week _ _ _ _ _

The day after the 20th _ _

The day after 18th _ _

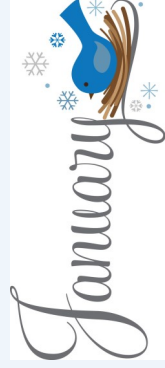
The first day of the second weekend _


The last Sunday _ _ _

The last day of the month _ _ _ _ _

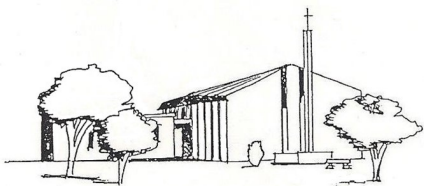


Answers: Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off 	AA group 5:30pm		AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	10am altar guild 11am Potato Luncheon w/ Speaker, Lou St. Germain
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Baptism of Our Lord 8:45am Adult bible study & Sunday School 10am Worship Service	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off	AA group 5:30pm 6:45pm Church Council Meeting Zoom only		AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	Men's Bible Breakfast 8am@ Rosa's Sherwood Way
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Epiphany 2 8:45am Adult bible study & Sunday School 10am Worship Service	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off MLK, Jr. Day	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Bible Study #9		AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm Soup Kitchen 9:30-1	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Epiphany 3 8:45am Adult bible study & Sunday School 10am Worship Service	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off Newsletter Deadline	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Bible Study #10		AA group 5:30pm	AA group 5:30pm	
28	29	30	31			
Epiphany 4 8:45am Adult bible study & Sunday School 10am Worship Service Noisy Bucket	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Day Off	AA group 5:30pm Pastor's Bible Study #11				

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*Sharing God's word & love
within and beyond
Calvary.*

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Calvary Lutheran Church

We strive to recognize and nurture the Christ in ourselves and each person that we encounter along the way. Our church is a thriving community of believers and lovers of the word of God. Calvary Lutheran has a long tradition of outreach and service to its members and the community. We hope you will join us for service on Sunday to experience for yourself the fellowship of Christ.