



The Calvary Chronicle

“To know Jesus and to make him known, faithfully, boldly, and excellently.”

September 20, 2020 Volume 6, Issue 38

**LOVE DOES NO HARM
TO A NEIGHBOR;
THEREFORE LOVE IS
THE FULFILLMENT OF
THE LAW.**



ROMANS 13:10

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday (9/20)	8:00a & 11:00a.....	Worship/C
	9:30a.....	Family Bible Hour
Saturday (9/26)	6:00p.....	Worship
Sunday (9/27)	8:00a & 11:00a.....	Worship/C
	9:30a.....	Family Bible Hour

'Beloved'

1 John 4:7 "Dear friends, let us love one another, because love comes from God."



Literally, John's "dear friends" is "beloved"– you know, like you hear preachers beginning wedding ceremonies in the movies, "Dearly beloved, we are gathered here today..." We don't talk that way in every day conversation. But it says something about the way God loves us.

Right from the start, we are people God loves. Love, after all, is what distinguishes him. Unfortunately, many people don't think of love first when they think of God. "Rules come from God." That's what many people think. And it is true, so far as it goes. God is the author of right and wrong, and this in no way contradicts his love. But to many people this is just an intrusion into their lives. "I'm a mature adult," they think. "I can make my own decisions. Why doesn't God mind his own business?"

"Justice, and Judgment, come from God." That, too, is true so far as it goes. But that never won God any friends. It scares people. It makes them run and hide from him, like Adam and Eve did in the garden of Eden.

Or it makes them shake their fist at God, because they don't think he is being fair: "Why are you treating me this way?" Even God himself calls this his strange work, his alien work in the book of Isaiah. It's the part of his job he likes the least. He doesn't like to punish. But someone has to do it. Otherwise, our world would end up in utter chaos.

"Love comes from God...God is love." That is what God should be known for. To understand his love, we need to realize that it is not just any kind of love. It is not romance. The first thing I noticed about my wife was that she was pretty. It didn't hurt that she had this bubbly personality I found attractive. God does not love us based on finding us attractive–not physically or spiritually. If we understand what our sins have done to us, then we know that they have made us unattractive to him. God loves us anyway.

God does not love us like a consumer loves. Consumers buy things and own things to use them up. I "love" a juicy steak because it makes me happy to eat it. I "love" my car because it is comfortable and it makes me happy to drive it. Someday it will wear out, and then I won't love it. But God doesn't love us because we are objects he finds useful

Bits of Bread

for his happiness. We are far worse than the broken down car. He is always putting more into us than he is getting out of us. God loves us anyway.

If love comes from God, then how do we describe his kind of love? God's love is unconditional. It is not based on our worthiness or response. It's not like a contract in which we have to keep up our side of the bargain. You realize that you could never sin so much, or so severely, that it would make God stop loving you? I am not recommending that we try. Sin can still make our lives miserable and destroy our faith. But that is all on us. It is not because God ever stops loving you. His love is unconditional.



God's love is unselfish. It is about giving, not taking. Certainly he is happy when we start to love him and serve him in return. But this is not the reason he loves us. In the parable of the prodigal son, Jesus has the father answer the second son, who is angry that his father is so generous with the little brother who wasted his father's inheritance: "You are always with me, and everything I have is yours." That's how God loves us: Everything I have is yours. God's love is unselfish.

God's love is unlimited. Nothing is too big to ask, nothing is too much for him to do, if it will truly help and serve us. You can look in the Bible and see that love led him to split the Red Sea in two, make the earth stand still, and become a man and sacrifice his own life to save us. Because this is love, you understand, this is not the same thing as giving us whatever we want. If helping you and serving your real needs meant giving you a billion dollars or miraculously healing your cancer, God wouldn't hesitate for a second. But sometimes he knows we need the poverty or the disease even more, and because his love is unlimited, he is even willing to give us these things.

God's love is unending. The supply never runs out. It is never anything less than full. He will love you for the rest of your life, and through death, and for all eternity. There will never be a "when" that God doesn't love you.

This, then, is the kind of love that comes from God. Let that fact sink in, and know that you are loved.

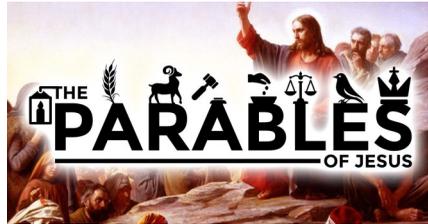
New Sermon Series

“What is God Like? Let Me Tell You a Story!”

Near the end of his ministry, Jesus spoke more and more boldly about the coming Kingdom of God/heaven. “The Coming Kingdom of God” was the centerpiece of Jesus’ preaching in the early days of his ministry. Matthew summarizes Jesus’ early sermons with this concise statement, “From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.” (Matthew 4:17). After three years out in the public, the time for Jesus’ departure was at hand. As he made his way to Jerusalem he did so with urgency. The kingdom was no longer *near*; it was *here*!

As the time came closer for Jesus to fulfill his mission, he wanted his followers to understand the full import of the kingdom of God/heaven he came to bring. As was his custom, Jesus taught the deep truths of God by means of engaging little stories, called parables. The parables, however, were not a way of opening things up to his followers, it also closed things down for his opponents. When asked why he taught in parables, Jesus explained, “Because the knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. This is why I speak to them in parables: Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.” (Matthew 13:11-13)

It is appropriate, as the Pentecost season begins to wind down, that we listen again to the parables of Jesus that occupied his ministry in his final days. In them, Jesus unfolds the “secrets of the kingdom of heaven”, explaining in story form who and what the true God is like. In the month of October, we ask the question, “**What is God Like?**” and Jesus answer it by saying, “**Let Me Tell You a Story!**”



The following is an outline to help you anticipate the stories Jesus will tell us as he unfolds for us the deep truths of the our King and His Kingdom:

Parables from Matthew’s Gospel – “What is God Like? Let Me Tell You a Story!”

- October 4 – (18th after Pentecost) Matthew 20:1-6, Our God is Incomprehensibly Gracious
- October 11 – Matthew 21:28-32, God Wants Real Repentance and True Obedience
- October 18 – (20th after Pentecost) Matthew 21:33-43, God Patiently Seek Fruits of Faith
- October 25 – (21st after Pentecost) Matthew 22:1-14, God Invites Unworthy Sinners to Participate in His Blessings

Calvary Kids

What is Calvary Kids?

Calvary Kids is an interactive Bible experience for children on Sunday mornings.

- ◆ We know that
- ◆ God's Word is active
- ◆ God's Word is powerful
- ◆ God's Word saves
- ◆ God's Word is for KIDS!



At Calvary Kids we celebrate this truth as we dive into God's Word together and grow in God's amazing grace!

- ◆ Each week Calvary Kids connects children to their Savior, Jesus, through:
- ◆ Kid-friendly Bible lessons
- ◆ Upbeat music
- ◆ Creative crafts
- ◆ Engaging activities

"But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever! Amen." 2 Peter 3:18

The Details:

Who: Kids! We offer lessons and activities for 2-year-old tots through 6th grade

When: Sunday mornings from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

Where: Calvary Lutheran Church

Join the fun at Calvary Kids any time! No registration is required.

We use [KidCheck](#) to ensure the safety of all our participants. Learn more about KidCheck and create your free account here: <https://www.kidcheck.com/signup/>

Sunday Schedule:

- ◆ 9:00 and 9:30 AM: Calvary Kid drop-off and flex time fun
- ◆ 9:30 to 10:30 AM: Lessons, crafts, and activities!
- ◆ 10:30 and 10:40 AM: Calvary Kid pick-up

Power Hour ... To Go!

Calvary's Early Childhood Ministry is launching a NEW program this fall called **Power Hour!** Power Hour is the next-step learning program from Mornings with Mommy for 2-5 year-olds and their caregivers.

The goal of Power Hour is to share Jesus with all the friends we've made in our community through Mornings with Mommy and to offer them a unique place where they can "practice preschool" with their children, building knowledge and confidence for their school-years.



The Power Hour curriculum has a strong academic core, focusing on mathematics, literacy, fine motor development, science, and social studies. These learning concepts are experienced through music, crafts, and activities. Every Power Hour lesson is centered on a Bible story. Our goal is for every child to know how special they are to their Savior, Jesus.

With COVID concerns still high, the fall term of Power Hour will follow a to-go model similar to the VBS Tots program we did this summer. What a blessing!

Here's how you can get involved:

- ◆ Pray for the Lord's blessing and guidance for all who are teaching and learning at Power Hour this fall!
- ◆ Register your little ones for the fall term and share the news with other young families!
- ◆ Volunteer to help with material prep (contact Amy David at tadavid05@hotmail.com or 214-450-5506).
- ◆ Donate items for this project from the attached list or from our [Amazon wish list](#).

Learn more on our webpage at <https://calvarydallas.org/power-hour/>

Stacey Jackson, Church Secretary ~ Email - churchsec@calvarydallas.org

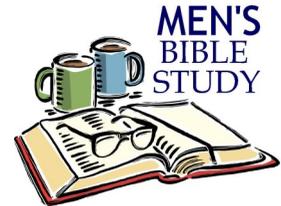
Important Announcements

**RETURN
to
REGULAR
WORSHIP
TIMES**



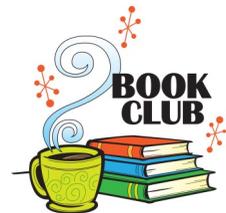
REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE: We have returned to our regular worship schedule. Sunday morning worship is at 8:00am and 11:00am and Family Bible Hour is at 9:30am. Saturday worship is at 6:00pm every Saturday evening and will continue to remain our Extra Care Service with a shorter service and less singing.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Men are encouraged to join Pastor for Bible Study on **Saturday, October 3rd at 8:00AM**. Bring your Bible and a friend!



BIBLE STUDY: Women are invited to continue our study on *enough for now* by Sharla Fritz on **Saturday, October 10th at 9:30 AM**. In person, with masks and social distancing, a zoom option will also be available. Due to COVID-19 food and drink will *not* be provided.

BOOK CLUB: Will meet **Saturday, October 24th** to discuss *Summer of '69* by Elin Hilderbrand at 10:00 AM via Zoom.



COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE: Calvary will sponsor a fall blood drive on **Saturday, November 7th from 8:00am - 2:00pm**. Visit www.redcrossblood.org and search using sponsor code "calvalrylcs" to schedule an appointment.

Ways to Give

OFFERINGS: Our ministry is supported through the offerings of God's people. Traditionally these offerings are placed into an offering plate passed during each worship service. God does not need your money. It's all His already. However, He loves the generosity of giving as part of a joyful response to His generous love for us. **Today we have many opportunities to give our offerings:**

Online: Click the "GIVE" button at the top of the webpage at calvarydallas.org, then click the red "Give Now" button. You can sign up for one-time or recurring gifts.



Mail: Mail a check to Calvary Lutheran, **9807 Church Rd. Dallas, TX 75238**. We are still gathering and depositing these gifts weekly.



App: Download the [Give Plus app](#) and search with 75238 as the zip code. Select Calvary Lutheran in Dallas as your church and sign up for one-time or recurring gifts.

Text: Send a text **833-948-2221** with the dollar amount you want to give. Receive a text back with simple set-up instructions. All gifts go directly to Calvary.

If you need assistance with any of these giving methods, please contact the Church Secretary at churchsec@calvarydallas.org.

For those interested in the current financial situation: **We have seen a decrease in offerings as we have to more online worship and decreased attendance.** Calvary does need continued support to operate in the same manner. All of the above options are excellent ways to provide that support.

*"But just as you excel in everything in complete earnestness and in your love for us - see that you also excel in this grace of giving."
2 Corinthians 8:7*



Forward in Faith Fund

An inside look at...



Since its very beginning in 1972, Calvary Lutheran School has been committed to providing children a high-quality education rooted in the truth of God's Word.

THE CHALLENGE

The cost of education is rising rapidly. This presents challenges for both Calvary Lutheran School and student families.



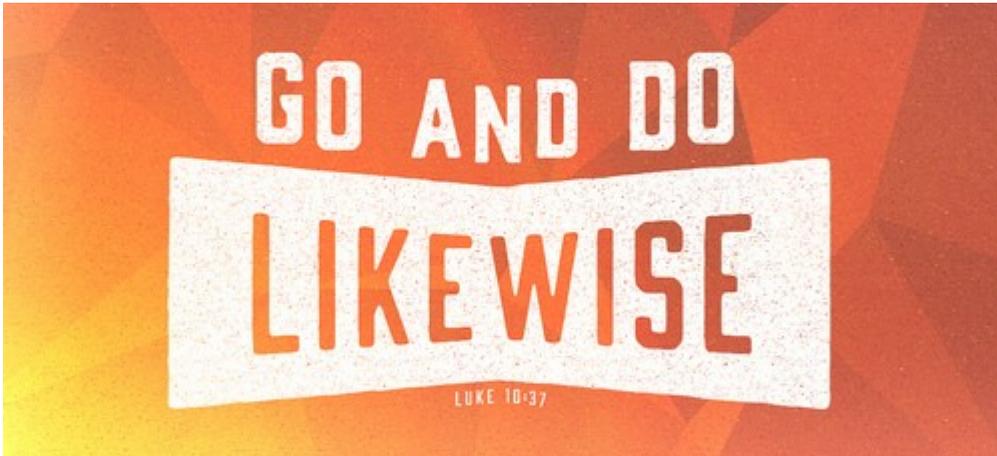
THE OPPORTUNITY

Forward in Faith is base of Difference-Makers who use their blessings from the Lord to give the gift of Christian education to the next generation. This committed base supports ministry,

YOU can make a difference through Forward in Faith!

*Looking for more information about Forward in Faith?
Visit our web page at <https://calvarydallas.org/school/fif>
and join the movement!*

Good Samaritan Fund



In Luke chapter 10, a teacher of the law asks Jesus the question,
“And who is my neighbor?” (Luke 10:29)

Jesus replies with the parable of the Good Samaritan,
which ends with the question, “Which of these three do you think was a
neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?” (Luke 10:36)

The teacher of the law correctly responds,
“The one who had mercy on him.”

Jesus then tells him, “Go and do likewise.” (Luke 10:37)

In the same way, Jesus also calls us to have compassion
and mercy on our neighbors.

**Calvary has a Good Samaritan fund available for those in need.
After helping many of our neighbors, it is now low in funds.**

**Please consider making a donation by marking your checks/envelopes
for the Good Samaritan Fund.**

Today in Sunday School

God Tells Job About His Creation

Read: Job 38-39, Psalm 8

In This Passage: In response to Job's questions about his suffering, God speaks. He declares the wonder of his creation, showing that he's in control because he made everything just as he planned. In Psalm 8, David marvels at what God has made, pointing out that God puts humans in charge of his creation.

Bible Point: God is the Creator.

Summary Verse: "O Lord, our Lord, your majestic name fills the earth! Your glory is higher than the heavens" (Psalm 8:1).



Birthdays &



Anniversaries

Aaron Hines	9/21
Bill Ball	9/22
Kevwe Emoghene	9/22
Joshua Travis	9/23
Libby Perkins	9/24
Ed Grimes	9/25
Kimberly Travis	9/25
Thomas Sourie	9/26
Ellie Koelpin	9/26

David & Nita Bertram

September 21, 1963

Darin & Andreana Peterson

September 25, 2005

Roger & Rita Kliebert

September 26, 2015

Our Response To the Word

IN TIME AND GIFTS:

Worshippers Last Weekend.....95 Present & 57 Online
Family Bible Class Attendance.....Adult - 20 & Kids - 19
Given to the Glory of God for July 2020.....\$60,950
Needed monthly for God's Work.....\$111,461

IN TALENTS THIS WEEKEND:

Preacher/Liturgist.....Pastor John Koelpin
Pianist.....Saturday - Sue Stricker; Sunday - Peter Schumacher
Cantor.....Jon Walker
Audio/Visual.....Rick Jackson and John McCarthy

Elders:

Saturday.....Rick Jackson
9:30am.....Dale Burgdorf
11:00am.....Gary Quam

Mowing Crew:

9/26.....Henrickson Team
10/3.....Kliebert Team
10/10.....Beavan Team
9/19.....Barbour Team

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS:

First Lesson.....Genesis 50:15-21
Psalm.....103
Second Lesson.....Romans 14:5-9
Gospel Reading.....Matthew 18:21-35