

year-end giving

As we look toward the end of the year, the church office (Entrance H) will be open on the afternoon of December 31 until 5:00 pm to facilitate any last-minute year-end giving.

WEB: All giving done on our website through Sunday, Dec. 31 will be credited to your 2017 giving. It's quick, simple, and secure at mycalvarygr.org. Please be aware that the system will automatically date your gift for the following business day. We will make manual adjustments to all gifts initiated before midnight on Dec 31.

ONLINE BANKING: All giving done through the online bill pay portion of your banking website, dated on or before Dec 31, will be credited to your 2017 giving.

TEXT MESSAGE: Easiest of all, do it from anywhere—give via a text message before midnight on Dec 31, and it will be credited to your 2017 giving. Simply Text the amount you wish to give to 616-294-0700 (ex. 75 General or 50 Grace Beyond)

MAIL: All checks that are mailed to our offices and postmarked by Dec 31 will be credited to your 2017 giving. Make your check out to "Calvary" and mail to Calvary Church, Attn: Finance Office, PO Box 1600, Grand Rapids, MI 49501-1600. Any special designation can be written on the memo line.

STOCKS: We also accept donations of stocks, bonds and mutual funds. Please note that our account information has changed. Should you wish to contribute any of these securities, please contact Chris Snedeker in the Financial Services Department for new giving instructions.

grace beyond

Thank you for participating in last Sunday's Grace Beyond celebration service. The total amount of pledge commitments received will be announced on January 7.

congregational care

RECENTLY HOSPITALIZED PRAYER LIST

If you have been hospitalized, or anticipate hospitalization, and would like to be added to the prayer list, please call the church office at 956-9377.

Butterworth: Donna Rose

Blodgett: Sue Belock

PRAYER CHAIN: If you need prayer, contact Don & Cindy Marrell (cmarrell@calvarygr.org) at 450-9622.

BEREAVED

We extend our Christian sympathy to Mike and Nancie Olen at the homegoing of Mike's sister, Pamela Contrado; to Matt, Princess, Jacob and Matthew Smith at the homegoing of Matt's father; and also to Terry and Nancy VanderKolk, and Scott and Julie VanderKolk at the homegoing of Terry's mother and Scott's grandmother, Evelyn VanderKolk, on December 20.

THANK YOU

Thank you for the beautiful bouquet and sympathy in the loss of my sister Carolyn. We're thankful to be a part of this loving family of God.

Carl & Anne Cetas

Thank you for the lovely bouquet of flowers at the memorial service for my son, Eddie Oliveira. It was a thoughtful gesture of kindness.

Joy & Glenn Dennis

SIGN CHANGERS NEEDED

If you would be interested in volunteering to change Calvary's road sign, please contact Jackie (jrice@calvarygr.org).

LANGUAGE CAFÉ

We are looking for additional volunteers to engage in conversation with non-native English-speakers at our weekly Language Café. We meet on Thursdays at 6:30pm in the Gathering Place. Contact Natalie (nuecker@calvarygr.org) for further details and to sign up.

December 24, 2017

9:00am & 10:45am

The Nativity Scene

Mark 3:27

Jim Samra, Senior Pastor

RESCUED
RESTORED
READY
STORIES OF REDEMPTION

FOR THE RECORD

	Projected Offerings	Actual Offerings	Surplus/ (Deficit)
Last Week	\$ 250,072	\$ 162,515	(\$87,557)
Fiscal YTD Sept. 1 - Dec. 17	\$ 2,814,862	\$ 2,443,400	(\$371,462)
Open Door Project		\$ 35,630	

Calvary Church

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calvarygr.org

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CHURCH

welcome

Merry Christmas!

thank you for being here today

If you are visiting today, we are glad you are here. For information about our many groups, programs and events for all ages, pick up a copy of the quarterly Calvary Life magazine, visit us online at calvarygr.org, or stop by the Connection Point (located in the Gathering Place across from the main Sanctuary entrance). We would love to meet you! If you need hearing assistance, listening devices are available at the Welcome Center in the Crosswalk.

this morning

Today is a family service. Childcare is available for children through three years old. Children four years of age and older are encouraged to attend the service with their families. If needed, room 124B is open for a limited number of preschool age children. Middle School Ministry (5th-8th grade) is not meeting.

next sunday

The ordinance of communion will be observed in next Sunday's morning worship service. If needed, gluten-free bread will be available at the back of the Sanctuary prior to the service. We will also collect an offering for our Benevolent Ministry following our time of communion.

coming events & announcements

Blessed2Bless Prayer Gathering January 8 | 10:00-11:30am Room 215 (Entrance C)

Gather for inspiration and prayer as we take steps of faith into our neighborhoods, workplaces, families and friend groups.

Study the Gospel of Mark in 2018! **Women's Bible Study** Resumes January 9 Tuesdays | 9:15-11:15am

Join other women this winter for growth in God's Word, prayer, worship and community. We invite you to join us as we discover the treasure in the Gospel of Mark.

While mom is in Bible Study, our children's ministry, **Tuesday Kids**, is a wonderful place for children birth to six years of age to learn God's truth in a loving atmosphere. While the women are studying Mark, our little ones learn about Jesus too! Teachers and helpers use Bible stories, music and fun activities to reinforce the weekly lesson. Contact Donna (women@calvarygr.org) if you'd like to join the Winter Semester.

Generation Rising Resumes January 16 | 7:00pm Room 208 | Cost: \$10

Navigating life is difficult through your 20's and into your 30's, but as Christians it isn't something we do alone. Together, we focus on integrating our faith into our lives while going through transitions. Through this, we are em-

powered and equipped to live into the fullness of God's calling for our lives. Join us as we dig deeper into the Gospel of Mark this year. Register at mycalvarygr.org.

Monday Night Bible Study Mondays, Resuming January 8 7:00pm | Chapel | \$10

Through individual and small group Bible study Monday Night Bible Study equips you to discover truth and establish intentional gospel-centered relationships with those in your context who don't know Jesus as their hope and Savior. We are studying The Gospel of Mark. To register for the Winter Semester, contact Karen (kvanholstyn@calvarygr.org)

Calvary Equip New Semester Begins January 10

Calvary Equip provides opportunities to learn faith-enriching practices. You will be equipped to live out what you are taught and engage more fully with what God is doing in and through His church in this place. A full list of classes being offered this semester is at calvarygr.org/equip.

Putting a Ring on it This Christmas?

Start fresh with the Foundations community of newly married and engaged young adults in the new year. Foundations meet on the first and third Sundays of every month at 9:00am in Room 256.

Weekend to Remember Feb. 23-25 | Grand Rapids April 13-15 | Kalamazoo

Marriage is a lifelong adventure of growing together through every age and stage of life. The happiest couples are those who commit to learning skills that help them weather difficult seasons and deal confidently with relationship challenges. Make an investment in your marriage in 2018. Visit familylife.com to sign up, use code `ccgr` or `cckzoo` to save \$100 per couple on registration.

fourth sunday of advent - love



* * On this fourth Sunday of Advent we light the **love** candle. This is the day before Christmas and whether we're ready or not, it will be here tomorrow. We think of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and whether she felt prepared or not her waiting was nearly at its end. Jesus, the Savior of the world would come to be with us in His perfect timing. Advent is a season to learn from Mary what it looks like to humbly accept what the Lord desires, whether or not we feel ready or prepared for what He has planned.

God is waiting to break into our lives, to deliver us from the sin that entangles. Will we be like Mary and open ourselves to Him? Will we believe that there is blessing in believing that the Lord will do as He says? This is our prayer for you today - that you would have the courage to open yourself up to receive God's love this Christmas. That you would believe that He is who He says He is and let His love transform your life. That in turn you might love others and transform our world.

Advent Guide Note: This week we're reading *He is Here* in the Jesus Storybook Bible (Luke 1:26-38, 46-56).