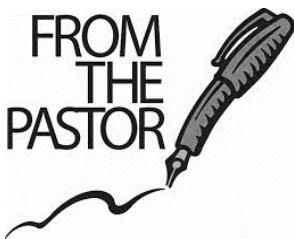


July 2024

The Lamplighter



A Monthly Newsletter from Calvary Church, Inc.
Where Faith Grows, Love Shows



Dear Friends of Calvary:

This letter is my first to Lamplighter, a ministry of Calvary Church. I'm writing to you to express my gratitude for being called to be your Pastor/Shepherd of this amazing body of Christ.

I remember our first visit to Calvary. In need of rest and spiritual filling, I had chosen Calvary to attend as I thought I didn't know anyone there. Unbeknownst to me, God was doing something in my life which would extend far beyond being a participant in worship at this church.

Growing up, I was a people pleaser. I wanted everyone to like me, and I went to outrageous lengths (often punishable) to ensure that happened. While not all pastors are people pleasers by nature; a prerequisite to this calling is loving people. All throughout the gospel, Jesus tells us to love our neighbors, our enemies, and each other. You can't be a true minister of the Gospel without loving people. And when you love people, there is



Upcoming Events

July 7

Communion

Contact Info

Calvary

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Milford, DE 19963
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302-422-3360 Fax
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Follow us on Facebook
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Office Hours: 9am – 1pm
Monday through Friday

Pastor

William Walters
Cell: 609-207-9092
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Elder

Lee Vincent
Cell: 302-382-2311

Administrative Assistant

Pat Darlin
pat.darlin@calvarychurchmilford.com
Notary Services Available

a strange internal desire to please them, to make them happy.

For most pastors, we are tempted to assess how well we are doing by how you respond to what we are doing. Why? Love always desires to be loved in return. Well, that doesn't seem like such a bad thing, but at times that is the greatest challenge in ministry.

I love each of you here at Calvary. But I love God more. Being torn between two loves is never fun. If we do not follow what God has led us to do and be, we are sacrificing faithfulness to God in order to please people.

What we need are men and women, young and old, who love Jesus so much that their focus becomes how we can, as a church, become more faithful to Him in the way we do church and live our lives.

That's what we need; people who understand that the mission here at Calvary is most important as we go into the next season of spiritual life here at Calvary with love and enthusiasm-Where Faith Grows, Love Shows!

Compelled by eternity,

Pastor Will



Independence Day

July 4th

Communion Sunday

July 7th

Meetings

July 9th 7:00pm Council

July 16th 7:00pm Trustees

Calvary Men's Breakfast Meeting

Sept. 8th 7:30am

Calvary Women's Circle

Sept. 17th

Love ♦ ONE ♦ *Another*

Gratitude's

To Our Dear Calvary Church Family,

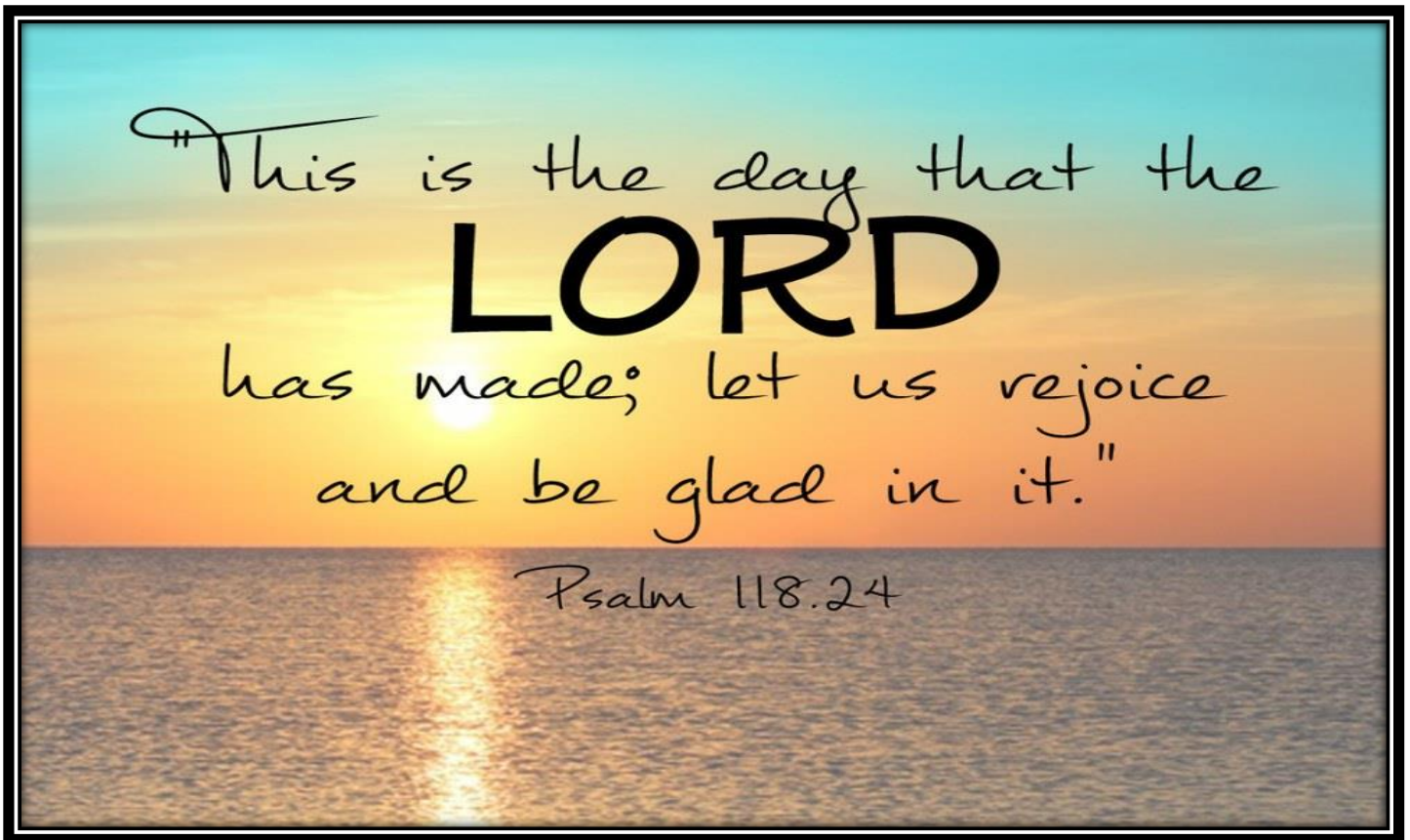
I would like to thank our church family for all the prayers, cards and calls, during my time in the hospital. We are truly blessed to have a wonderful church family. I would also like to thank the prayer team for the beautiful get-well cards.

Love & Prayers, Richard & Suzanne

Change for Life - Baby Bottle Campaign

Thank you all for your support in this year's Baby Bottle Campaign. We are blessed to have received your generous donations for this worthwhile mission. Please know, it's not too late to send in your donations or baby bottles.

Again, we are grateful for all the support we have received. Calvary is certainly a blessing!



perspectives

by Danny Cooper,
Pastoral Counselor & Coordinator/Counselor with
Daybreak Counseling Services

Guidance

*I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my loving eye on you. Psalm 32:8*

Over the past couple of years, my son and I have come to enjoy a new hobby...disc golf. For those unfamiliar, disc golf is very similar to traditional golf, except instead of riding about in a golf cart, utilizing a variety of clubs, and ultimately putting the little white golf ball into the appropriate cup, a disc golf player throws an array of frisbees, some that are designed for long distance, some that curve, and others that are shorter distance, yet straight, with the hope of eventually landing a disc into an upright goal that has a basket surrounded by chains, which are meant to "catch" the disc being thrown, making a beautiful metallic clanging sound that all players love to hear. Given there is no great skill necessary to play, and the courses are often in beautiful settings like state parks, it's easy to see why disc golf has continued to grow in popularity.

Not long ago, the Cooper disc golf duo visited a new course to test our very limited skills. Instead of a state park, this course was located at a county municipal field complex. At first sight, all we could see was a vast array of interconnected soccer fields. On one side of this huge grassy area was a playground area for little ones, but no clear sign of where to actually find the disc golf course. In fact, across the many acres of beautifully manicured grass, we could only see large, smooth granite-like stones, maybe three feet in diameter, with a different number affixed to each. The number range on the granite markers went from 1-8 at various points across the vibrant green expanse. Were these the tee off areas for the disc golf course? We had no clue. And as we stood stationary, pondering the scene, my son noticed a fellow sitting on a picnic table behind us, discs in hand, politely waiting for us to begin our round. We confessed that we were new to this course....so new in fact that we didn't even know where to begin! He quickly came up alongside, pointed out the general layout of the course, which in fact encircled the fields from the edges (we hadn't even thought of that!), and said that the big granite balls that had caught our attention merely marked the various soccer fields. We had been totally confused in what we were seeing,

drawing faulty conclusions in every direction. This kind stranger offered to go ahead of us, allowing us to see where the tee off areas were, as well as the goals for each hole. We ended up loving the course and having a great experience. I don't think our outing would have been nearly as enjoyable and memorable without the guidance of this thoughtful stranger.

Our journey in this life can pose challenges to us as we travel along, similar to those we faced at the municipal park that special day. In looking back at our disc golf experience, a couple of lessons stand out. For starters, what we were looking for at the park was good, but we were looking in the wrong direction and quickly felt lost. This is a lesson for us to keep in mind as we make our way in this life. On so many occasions in my counseling work, I have talked with folks who have gotten truly lost along the way, not because what they were searching for was wrong or inappropriate, but it was where they were looking which caused them to venture off the path. It's not unlike the old shopping adage...never go to the grocery store hungry, and in particular, hungry without a list. If we have a list, a list that was made thoughtfully and purposefully ahead of time, we know what aisles or parts of the store that coincide with what we are looking for. But shopping without a list, and hungry to boot, is a recipe for disaster. It's understandable to be hungry; we need to be fed to keep going in this life. So there's nothing wrong, per se, in being hungry. But where do we look to satisfy our hungers? This is the question that not only separates shoppers, it separates many of us as we make our way through this life experience.

Another lesson that I took away from our disc golf experience was to not always trust what our eyes see. I knew what I was looking for....a disc golf course....and because I could only see acres of green grass and huge stone markers with numbers on them, I thought that this must be it. You see, I wanted "this" to be "it". I wanted the pieces to fit together. And if it wasn't for our kind stranger/guide, I believe we would have stumbled and fumbled our way through that vast sea of green, wondering all along where the goals were, why the numbers didn't make more sense, etc. The lesson: the obvious, neon signs before us are not always the answer to what we are seeking. When our new friend was able to shift our attention away from the grassy area and onto the easy to overlook sidewalk that encircled the park, I could then see, in black paint no less, the tee boxes that defined the starting point for each disc golf hole. And on top of that, when standing in the marked tee box, I could then see the goal in the distance, because from the elevated sidewalk vantage point, the goals weren't easily lost in the vast ocean of green. The scene started to become clear. I could now finally see.

Lastly, even though we have all the right discs and have walked many other courses in the past two years, if we take the risk to try a new course now and then, because new courses are interesting and challenging, a guide might come in handy to help us find

our way. The lesson: experiences in the past may be helpful, but there are times, especially in new circumstances, when a guide is beneficial. We know the jokes, do we not, about how difficult it can be to ask for directions, but the truth is, sometimes we need the assistance, and God always wants to provide. The challenge is not God in these circumstances, but you and me. Many of us don't like to feel lost or to not know a particular answer. This can be uncomfortable and cause us to feel insecure. But if we can humble ourselves, seeking out the help and direction that God is trying to provide us, we can typically be steered in the right direction. So, was the disc golf stranger an instrument of God on that particular day? I believe so. This helps to remind us that God is present and active in every aspect of our lives, even, on that particular day, the experience my son and I were having at that park a few weeks ago. God is that interested in us. God loves us that much.

While you may have a new, basic understanding of disc golf after reading this reflection, my greater hope is that you have an even deeper awareness of God's presence in the day to day happenings of your life. The Word reminds us that God will...*never leave us nor forsake us*. He is constantly available to us, both in the easy, confident experiences we encounter, but also the times we feel lost and unsure. No matter the occasion, both great and small, they all matter to our God, for we will always be His children. May we rely upon that closeness in our day to day life, allowing our loving God to guide us along our path. How blessed we are when we have the eyes to see God's hand in our circumstances. He is there...you can depend on it!....Amen



Office Bytes

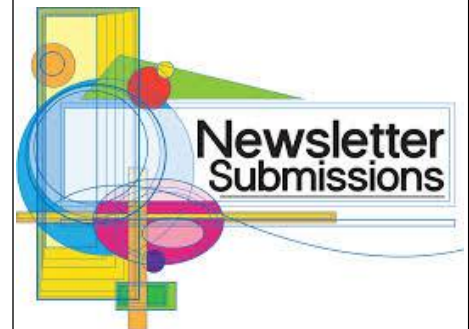
Volunteers Welcome

Call 302-422-8884 if you are interested.

Notary Services Available

Please know, detailed financial information is always available for members upon request.

Contact the church office to schedule a time to come in and have any questions or concerns addressed.



Please submit info for the Newsletter to the Church Office no later than the 4th Sunday of July (7/28) to be included in the next issue.

Thank you.

Greetings from the Calvary Christian Men

The Calvary Christian Men have decided not to convene over the summer months. Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, September 8th. Have a Blessed Summer!

Ed Bradley/Derek Sapp, President

Calvary Christian Women

The Calvary Christian Women are wishing everyone a very safe and blessed summer. Enjoy!

We look forward to resuming our circle meetings in September.

Blessings,

Mary Sue Smith, President

Summer Bible Fellowship

Ladies, please plan to gather here at Calvary for a Women's Devotional Fellowship on Tuesday, July 2nd at 1:00pm.

Enjoy encouraging each other as we study together: "Becoming a woman whose God is Enough". Contact Lois Bradley (302-422-6358) or Kay Strader (302-381-9245) with any questions.

Evangelism – Meal & Movie Night

The Evangelism Team continues hosting a meal, movie and fellowship on the last Friday of each month.

The meal begins at 5:45pm and an inspirational movie will begin at 6:30pm.

Please join us Friday, July 26th for a great night of fellowship with food and a movie. We look forward to seeing you!

July



Birthdays

- July 1 Colton Moore
- 2 Lena Downes
- 2 Mary Sue Smith
- 3 Tina Zeigler
- 22 Valerie Benton
- 22 Brianna Kresse

Anniversaries

- 31 Jerry & Carol Morris
- 31 Dave & Sandy Wilkins



Have we missed your Birthday or Anniversary?

Contact the church office with dates if you would like it added to the newsletter.

We don't want to leave anyone out!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Women's Devotional Fellowship 1:00pm Fellowship Hall		Independence Day Office Closed		
	1	2	3	4	5	6
Sunday Services 7	8	9	Bible Study 7:00pm 10	11	12	13
Sunday Services 14	15	16	Bible Study 7:00pm 17	18	19	20
Sunday Services 21	22	23	Bible Study 7:00pm 24	25	Meal & Movie Night 5:45pm Movie 6:30 26	27
Sunday Services Parent's Day 28	29	30	Bible Study 7:00pm 31	Sunday Service Schedule 8:30am Praise & Worship 9:45am Sunday School 11:00am Traditional Worship		

July 2024

HIGHLIGHTS:

July 4th – Independence Day

July 7th – Communion

July 26th – Meal & Movie Night

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2	3	4	5	6	7	8		4	5	6	7	8	9	10					
9	10	11	12	13	14	15		11	12	13	14	15	16	17					
16	17	18	19	20	21	22		18	19	20	21	22	23	24					
23	24	25	26	27	28	29		25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
30																			
June 2024							August 2024												



Calvary Leadership

Head of the Church: Jesus Christ
Ministers: Each of Us
Pastor: Will Walters
Administrative Assistant: Pat Darlin
Council Chair: Bob Shinholt
Council Vice-Chair: Richard Stoops
Trustee Chair: Jana Hood
Worship: Jana Hood
Elders: Lee Vincent

Church Treasurer: Pat Darlin
Financial Secretary: Karen Bell
Recording Secretary: Susanne Webb
Membership: Pat Darlin
Evangelism: Bonnie Watford
Women's President: Mary Sue Smith
Men's President: Ed Bradley / Derek Sapp
Prayer Team: Joyce Vincent

Calvary Church
301 SE Front Street
Milford, DE 19963

The Lamplighter – July 2024

