



THE CALVARY CONNECTION

Unity. Liberty. Love. Serve.

DECEMBER 2025

December Birthdays

1: Samuel Gavurin
2: Jason Grubbs, Debbie Isbister
3: Alethea Segal
4: Lynn Biggam, Chloe Dickens, Kaden Dickens, Marion Milder
6: Violet Carter, Michael Gwyn
7: Doug Boles
8: Tucker Cheek, Norian Fordham
9: Laura Blackburn, Allison Pratt
10: Jay Trivette
11: Charles Sapp, Jonathan Sapp
12: Jessica Childress, Richard Henderson, Betty Montgomery
14: Doc Whitaker

15: Chris Stone, Jr.
16: Jordan Stone
17: Javier Arizmendi, Seth McKnight, Chris Van Kleeck
19: Lottie Wiggins, Camilla Williams
20: Eric Church, Gary Willis, Jr.
22: Chris Hayward, Dennis Rothrock
23: Danny Harrison Jr, June Meehan, Stewart Stimson
24: Elizabeth Scales
27: Della Helms, Vicki Forrest
29: Laura Aaron
30: Madison Stone
31: Lee Pratt



DAILY TEXTS ARE HERE!

If you pre-ordered copies of next year's Daily Texts, they are on a table in the West Lobby with your name sticky noted on your copies. There is a box with the price list attached where you can drop your cash or check made out to Calvary Moravian Church for the payment. We have additional copies for sale if you need extra copies or didn't pre-order. The prices are as follows:

Small paperback - \$13
Hardcover - \$15.50
Large print - \$14.50
Journal edition - \$17

BRUNSON ANGEL TREE

The holiday season is here, and that means it's time for our 7th annual Brunson Elementary Angel Tree! Since the program began in 2019, the Calvary Moravian Missions Committee, together with your generous support, has brightened Christmas for almost 300 students at Brunson Elementary School through gifts and cozy sweatshirts.

This year, we are returning to a traditional Angel Tree program. Each ornament on the tree has a student's Christmas wishlist on it. In addition to your generous gifts, we have partnered with Bookmarks to include a donated book for each student. Below are details regarding the Angel Tree gifts. Thank you for your help in making this Christmas a little brighter for children in our community!

- You can take 1 or more ornaments from the Angel Tree beginning November 23rd and purchase the requested gifts. Please sign your name next to your chosen number(s) on the signup sheet next to the Angel Tree. This allows us to track what remaining gift items need to be purchased.
- Gifts are due back on the 3rd Sunday of Advent, December 14th. They will be delivered to Brunson that following week in time to distribute before the students go on winter break.
- Gifts can be placed under the Christmas tree in the sanctuary when they are completed.
- Please return unwrapped gifts all together in one open Christmas gift bag or more tied together, unless the gift is too large to place in a bag. Please remember to include the ornament with the gifts so they can be easily distributed at Brunson.



If you'd prefer, you can also contribute through a monetary donation by writing a check to Calvary Moravian with "Angel Tree" in the memo line. These donations will go towards purchasing Brunson-branded sweatshirts for the students and any remaining Angel Tree items. Each sweatshirt will cost \$25 and we are using a local printer, House of Rodan, to make them. Thank you for joining us once again in this meaningful tradition! Merry Christmas!



COFFEE AT THE HOLIDAY PARADE

On Saturday, December 6th, Calvary will again have our “Moravian Coffee and a Parade.” The annual Holiday Parade in downtown Winston-Salem will be held along 4th Street and starts at 5:00 PM. Beginning at 4:30 PM, Calvary will distribute free Moravian coffee to as many parade-goers as we can find, inviting them to our Christmas Eve Candle Services! We need several volunteers to help us with this wonderful community event.

If you would like to help, please see Amanda for details.



Candle Trimming

After worship on Sunday, December 7th, we will meet in the Fellowship Hall to trim candles for the Christmas Eve Lovefeast. If you’ve never trimmed the candles before, we’ll have plenty of experienced trimmers to teach you, so no experience is necessary! We will serve a lunch of baked potatoes and salad. We need to make many candles for this year’s services, so the more the merrier.

ANXIETY OR ABUNDANCE?

We live anxiety-ridden lives. There is so much cause for worry around us – economic, political, environmental, social, familial – it seems that everywhere we look we see the signs of disaster. Every news story is “gloom and doom.” Every advertisement, if it’s not trying to sell you something to make this Christmas just like the ones you remember from your childhood (the perfect ones that never existed), is trying to sell you something to protect yourself ... from break-ins, from power outages, from a catastrophic diagnosis, from death itself.

Part of our anxiety comes from the human urge to control everything in our lives. Ever since Eden, we’ve bought into the falsehood that *if* we do just the right things, in just the right way, and follow the rules, *then* everything will be A-OK, under control, just like we want it to be. And, friends, that’s just not the way the world is, is it?

This constant anxiety is not the life God wants for us. So what’s a better way to live?

Thus says the Lord, through Peter: “Cast all your anxieties on him, for he cares about you.” Or, as the Common English Bible puts it: “*Throw* all your anxiety onto him, because he cares about you” (1 Peter 5:7).

I picture myself putting everything I’m worried about in a big trash bag (sometimes I make a real list!), knotting it tight closed, and throwing it, as hard as I can, at God. God catches it. No, the bag doesn’t burst and spill my worries all over everywhere – and now my worries aren’t just mine anymore. They’re God’s. And God is OK with that; God does not want us to carry our worries all by ourselves.

Throwing my cares onto God isn’t easy. I keep wanting to say, “But wait – I can do this!” and trying to take them back again. But if I really give something away, it’s not mine anymore, is it? And so I can’t take it back and decide what *I’m* going to do about it. It’s God’s now, and God will help me know what to do, how to handle it (if it’s even mine to handle!). So when I find myself reaching out to take some of them back, most of the time I catch myself – or rather, God’s Spirit nudges, and says, “Really?” and I give them back. Over. And over. And over.

Throwing your cares onto God takes work, and it takes trust, and it takes faith. God knows. And God cares. And God’s got you.

In the same passage in which Jesus declares that he is the good shepherd – the shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep – he says, “I came that they [*the sheep – that’s you and me!*] may have life, and have it abundantly.” The abundant life Jesus promised doesn’t mean an abundance of anxiety, but rather an abundance of peace, an abundance of joy – deep joy, not based on happy things happening, but based on the sure foundation of God’s enduring love.

Throw all your anxiety onto God, for God cares for you.

~ Pastor Nola



A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

**The Second Sunday of Advent
December 7th, 11 AM Worship**

The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols was born out of a world shaken by violence and grief. Its creator, The Rev. Eric Milner-White, returned to King's College, Cambridge after serving as a military chaplain in the First World War. He had seen the terror of trench warfare up close, the long nights lit by artillery and filled with the fear of incoming fire. The experience left him marked by the suffering of ordinary soldiers and by the deep sense that the world needed a way to face darkness with hope.

When the war ended in November 1918, Milner-White sought to offer a service that would speak to a city marked by loss. Nearly a quarter of the members of King's College had died, and the community still did not know exactly who had survived. In the midst of this uncertainty, Milner-White shaped a Christmas Eve liturgy that combined Scripture and song to trace the story of God's redemptive work. The design was not meant to explain every detail of faith but to offer a quiet, beautiful space in which people could face grief without being overwhelmed by it.

This is still the power of Lessons and Carols today. In a world that continues to be unsettled by conflict, fear, and division, the service invites us to pause and listen again to the story of God's presence in human history. Its simple structure allows room for both sorrow and longing, yet it also fills the heart with hope. Through familiar readings and music, it reminds us that light enters the world not in moments of peace but in the very places where people ache for it most.

Advent at Calvary



First Sunday of Advent
November 30th, 11 AM Worship

WS Christmas Parade & Coffee
December 6th, 4:30-6:30 PM

Second Sunday of Advent
A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
December 7th, 11 AM Worship

Pageant Rehearsal
December 13th, 10-11:30 AM

Third Sunday of Advent & Christmas Pageant
December 14th
9 AM Breakfast & Rehearsal • 11 AM Worship

Blue Christmas Service
December 18th, 3 PM

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 21st, 11 AM Worship

Christmas Eve Lovefeasts & Candle Services
December 24th at 11 AM, 4 PM, & 8 PM

A Moravian Christmas Carol Service
December 28th, 11 AM Worship



Blue Christmas

Thursday, December 18th, 3 PM
Calvary Moravian Sanctuary

We would like to invite you to a special Advent service in our sanctuary. This Blue Christmas Service will be a time of quiet, prayer, remembrance, and a moment to acknowledge that while this season might be a joyous one for many, there are those of us for whom this time is difficult. Whether you are struggling with loss, change, or uncertainty at this time of year, or you simply need a space to be quiet in the midst of all the hustle and bustle of the season, we invite you to come and worship with us.

MEMORIALS

Due to volunteer transition & training, all the most recent memorials & tributes will be included in the next *Calvary Connections*. If you have any questions, please contact us by emailing our financial secretary, Sabrina, at sabrina@calvarymoravian.org.

THE CALVARY CONNECTION

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The Rev. Dr. Chaz Snider, *Pastor & Head of Staff*

The Rev. Dr. Nola Reed Knouse,
Pastor of Congregational Care & Visitation

Amanda Schumpert,
Director of Music & Congregational Ministries

Jacob Patrick, *Office & Communications Manager*

Mary Louise Kapp Peeples, *Organist*

Sabrina Maksi, *Financial Secretary*

Brian C. Lott, *Band Director*



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Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Church Office: 336.722.3703
office@calvarymoravian.org
www.calvarymoravian.org

Office Hours
Mon-Thurs 8 AM-4 PM
Lunch Hour: 12:30-1:30 PM
Closed on Fridays

Worship - 11:00 a.m., in person & via live stream
www.calvarymoravian.org
Click on "Live Stream"

600 Holly Avenue
Winston-Salem, NC 27101-2716
Address Service Requested

