



# Calvary *Herald*

APRIL 2026 ~ VOLUME 57 ~ ISSUE 4

## HE IS RISEN!

EASTER AT CALVARY



In Luke's gospel, the good news of Easter began with a question: "Why do you seek the living among the dead?" And ever since, God has continued to ask His people why they so often seek life in places where they're least likely to find it. But on Easter morning, we get reminded that "He is risen!" Jesus has conquered death, and now true life is freely available in him.

So we hope you'll join us on Easter morning to celebrate the life that Jesus makes possible! We'll begin with a Sunrise Service at 7 am at 459 Red Brush Road. This will be followed by an Easter Breakfast for the entire church family at 8:30, Bible study at 9:30, and a time of worship at 10:30 that will feature "Risen King"—a musical celebration of the gospel led by our choir and praise team. After worship, all the kids are invited to stick around for an Easter Egg Hunt. So come "seek the living" among those who are being made alive by the grace we've been given in Christ.

## Worship for Good Friday

Calvary will host a brief Tenebrae Service (or "Service of Darkness" at 6:30 in the evening on Good Friday, April 3. We invite you to join us for prayer, song, and a candlelit journey through the story of the cross as we remember what Jesus endured to reconcile us to God.

## Faith, Fun & Fellowship

Join us this Wednesday, April 1, for an "April Fool's Day" Social! Wear your pajamas and bring some breakfast side items for our breakfast potluck (church will provide a fruit tray, along with gravy and biscuits). And don't miss our bus trip to Kernersville on Wednesday, April 15 to see the Paul J. Ciener Botanical Garden. We'll meet at church at 9:30 that morning. Bring some money for lunch at the Route 66 Diner in Kernersville. If you need more info, call Beth Church (828/391-1726) or Kathy McKnight (336/648-4523).

## EASTER EGG HUNT



AFTER WORSHIP ON EASTER SUNDAY

## “Practicing the Way” at Calvary This Spring

Because of the educational experiences that many of us have had, it’s easy to think about discipleship through an “educational lens”: we listen to the teacher—in many cases, a pastor, Bible study leader, or online preacher—so that we can learn the right content and know the right answers when we’re called upon to give them. And without doubt, there is value in having an intellectual grasp of certain truths. And yet, in the ancient world, discipleship worked much differently. Being a disciple involved more than learning information. It involved learning a way of life! Disciples became “apprentices” of a master. And they spent time with that master, so they could become like that master, and become capable of doing what their master did.



This is one of the insights that drives “*Practicing the Way*,” a spiritual journey that we’re inviting everyone at Calvary to be a part of in the weeks following Easter. Developed by a teacher named John Mark Comer, “*Practicing the Way*” introduces us—not so much to a set of lessons we need to learn—but to a set of attitudes and practices which, when undertaken in community over time, can open our lives to the Spirit in a way that allows Christ our Master to form and change us.

There are several different ways you can be part of this journey. In April and May, Pastor Alex will share a series of sermons that introduce us to some of the key concepts in thinking about our life in Christ through an “apprenticeship” lens. In conjunction with this series, some of our Sunday School classes will work through the “*Practicing the Way Course*” during their weekly study time. Of course, even if you miss worship or Sunday School, everyone can access the “*Practicing the Way Course*” using the RightNow Media membership that’s available to anyone who’s connected our church family. (If you don’t have RightNow Media access but would like to get it, please contact Pastor Alex.) Finally, we plan to offer several “discussion groups” related to “*Practicing the Way*.” Participants will chat about the blessings and challenges of being an apprentice of Jesus—and will discuss ways to support one another as they seek to grow in Christ. At least one of these groups will meet on Wednesday nights, but other groups are being formed to meet at various time during the week.

Regardless of how you choose to participate in this journey, we encourage you to ask yourself these questions: What are some of the ways that you’d like to become more like Jesus? And how could spending time with him (and his other apprentices) enable you to do more of what he did? And then, we invite you to follow him with us, so that we can experience his way, his truth, and his life together.

## Supporting Youth on Mission



This summer, from June 6th through June 12th, our youth group will be travelling to Orlando, Florida for this year’s mission trip. We’ll be working with Praying Pelican Missions and will do most of our ministry about 30 minutes North of Orlando in a town called Casselberry. We plan to serve alongside Community Methodist Church there. And while our work will include several different kinds of ministry, we’ll be spending most of our time serving the homeless population in that area.

There are two ways that you can be part of supporting our efforts. First and foremost, please pray for our mission team, asking the Lord to prepare our students for a great trip, to use them to bless others in a meaningful way, and to grow their faith in Christ through the time they share together. In addition, we’d be very grateful for your help in defraying the costs of the trip, especially for the

youth who need it most.

One way to provide financial support is through our “*Pink Envelope Fundraiser*.” Beginning in mid-April, one of the bulletin boards in our children’s Sunday School hallway will be covered with offering envelopes, each one marked with a suggested amount. We invite you to select an envelope, seal your gift inside, and then return it along with your regular offerings. In recent years, these gifts have been enormously helpful in making it possible for all our students to participate.

If you have any questions about this mission trip—or about our youth and children’s ministry in general—please don’t hesitate to contact Alex Bracey, our youth and children’s minister (336/712-5245). Thanks for all you do to support what God is doing in the hearts of our young people!

## April's Mission: Diaper Drive

Each month, the mission team at Calvary provides a way for members of our church to play an active role in blessing others. And in April, we're inviting you to bless some of the most vulnerable residents of our community by supporting the work of The Legacy Center, Mount Airy's ministry to women and families who are facing an unexpected pregnancy.

We'll be collecting items that are used most frequently by the ministry, which include baby wipes, diapers (especially in sizes 3, 4, and 5), and new infant clothes (in sizes 2T and 3T). And if you, your family, or your Sunday School class would like to contribute something more substantial, you can also team up to provide a new car seat, stroller, or crib. If you have any questions, please contact Jan Varney or Lilnette Phillips. And thanks in advance for making a difference in the lives of young families.



Mark your calendar! VBS is on the way! This year's VBS begins on Sunday, May 31 and runs through Thursday, June 4. Each night, kids will sing songs, play games, enjoy snacks—and most important of all—explore the nature of God at “Rainforest Falls.” If you'd like to know more, please touch base with Alex Bracey, our minister to youth and children.

### Thanks to Those Who Gave

Calvary wants to express gratitude to all those who gave special gifts in memory and in honor of those they love:

- In memory of Mary Helen Odell Smith: Earl & Jan Varney
- In memory of Howard Hull: Earl and Jan Varney
- In memory of Jo & Norris Hodge: Roger & Donna Keck
- In memory of Lisa Byrd: Roger and Donna Keck
- In honor of Guy & Mary Sparger: Roger & Donna Keck
- In honor of Gray Shelton: Mary Ruth Lewis
- In honor of Faye Haas: Mary Ruth Lewis
- In honor of Paisley, Ashton & Landon: Dot Marion (their grandmother)

## Dear Calvary...

Thank you all so much for the gift card you sent me for Christmas. I am so blessed to have such sweet teachers and friends at my church. Keep praying for me. I love you all.

***Vernell Goins***

Thank you so much for hosting the Soup-er Bowl Food Drive at Calvary. What a fun way to get the congregation involved in an effort that pours into our ministry. We are grateful for your generosity! The food drive collected 728 pounds of food, which is the equivalent of 607 meals for families in need. What a blessing you continue to be to the mission and ministry of helping those in our community who are struggling. May God continue to bless your church family as you bless others. Thank you!

***Mikki McCraw, Yokefellow Ministry Program Coordinator***

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for hosting us and providing such a wonderful breakfast. Your generosity, kindness, and support mean so much to us. Thank you for welcoming us with open arms and for investing in our team in such a meaningful way. We are truly grateful.

***Surry Community College Baseball.***

We hold you close to our hearts as we gather this week to lift you in prayer. With every word spoken our desire is for God to strengthen and uplift you in every aspect of your lives.

***Betty Allgood, God's Pit Crew Development Department Prayer Team***