

Calvary Newsletter Nov 2024

LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

I was listening to the radio in my car today and in the middle of November they are already playing Christmas music! It's not even Thanksgiving yet, and now they have switched over to Christmas songs! Again...am I complaining? No. For me, this is another reminder that we have entered our culture's season of holidays. And who doesn't love a holiday?

Well, God seems to love them. In Leviticus 23, God establishes The Festival of Trumpets, The Day of Atonement, and The Festival of Tabernacles as holidays for his people. Some of these are pretty cool. For The Festival of Tabernacles, you had to live in "temporary shelters" for 7 days. It's like a week-long camping trip!

In Esther 9:19-22, after God used Esther to save the Jewish people from the genocide planned for them by Haman, God set up a two-day holiday (Adar) during which God's people celebrated by feasting and giving each other gifts (It sounds like our version of Christmas). There are many more examples of God giving his people holidays to celebrate. I think it is safe to say that God likes holidays and intends for us to enjoy them.

But, there is one caveat. Every holiday that we chose to celebrate should be celebrated to God's glory. In Nehemiah 8:9-10, the prophet Ezra reminded God's people that when we celebrate, we must dedicate our holidays to God.

I look forward to doing that again this season. Our holiday season continues with 'Christ the King Sunday' on November 24th. Then, there is the 'hanging the greens' on Saturday, Nov 30th. All are invited to come to the church and help decorate for Advent. After that, on Dec 1st we kick off the Advent as we celebrate our Savior, Jesus Christ. Second Advent is Dec 8th, and Third Advent is Dec 15th.

December 15th is also our much anticipated 'Birthday for Jesus' celebration. This will be after church at noon. Remember to bring a \$15 white elephant gift for each person that is playing the game. Wrap your gift but do not label who it is to or from. Food is provided (usually pizza!).

Dec 22nd is fourth Advent. We tie up the Advent with a very special Christmas Eve service on Dec 24th at 8:00 p.m. Please join us if you are able as we light the Christ Candle and remember Jesus by joining Him in Holy Communion. See you there.

Ah! Let us praise God for the holidays. We are blessed that he has given such marvelous ones to us. May Christ be glorified in each and every one.

In brotherly love, Pastor Mike

New Members

Three new members joined our church rolls on Sunday, Nov. 3rd. These members have been attending our church for many months and have decided to officially join us. They are Sue Butler, Claudia Lance and Judith Muttriff.

After the church service, a reception was held in their honor. Many church members joined the new members in celebrating. Welcome Sue, Claudia & Judith!

TONTOGANY CALVARY CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

After the October regular board meeting the Committee adjourned and then moved into the Annual Church meeting (previously known as "Charge Conference") as directed by the TCC Bylaws.

The opening prayer was provided by Pastor Mike; then the board moved directly into electing the following members to the TCC Board with their new terms:

Vice President-(2 year term starting January 1st, 2025) –Gary Franks

Treasurer (2-year term starting 01/01/2025) – Joe Niceley

1st Member at Large (2-year term starting 01/01/2025) – Marsha Broadright

The positions continuing are:

President Cindy Hofner, 2nd year of a 2-year term starting 01/01/2024)

Secretary – Shirley German, 2nd year of a 2-year term starting 01/01/2024

Trustees Chair-Les Vogelsong, 2nd year of a 2-year term starting 01/01/2024

2nd member at large – Ken Mauer, 2nd year of a 2-year term starting 01/01/2024

After the election of officers was completed, the Board then received the annual "Safe Sanctuary training" and "Conflict of Interest training".

The board reviewed the proposed budget for 2025 which was submitted by Treasurer Niceley and then passed a Motion to adjust the pastor's salaries with many thanks and our gratitude for the service that they provide us.

The yearly internal audit was done by V.P. Gary Franks and church member, Karen MacEwen. They found no discrepancies in the church financial records. The board has arranged for a local CPA to review, in the upcoming weeks, the church financial records in order keep open transparency of the accounts. The Annual Meeting was adjourned.

Trick-or-Treat by Pastor Bridgett

It may have been raining, but that didn't stop the most determined souls on Halloween night!! Once again, we offered a spider web and athletic style obstacle course, to put their faith into action, before the treats.

HANGING OF THE GREENS!

Yes, it is that time of the year again! Everyone is invited to join us in “Hanging of the Greens” on Saturday, November 30th @ 9:30 A.M. The more assistance that we have, the faster we all can get home (there happens to be a Big game on at noon). See you on November 30th!

2024 OTSEGO CHRISTMAS BOX PROGRAM

Help is needed & welcome with many opportunities for a person to assist!

Both monetary and items are needed: toys (infant to 12 years); winter jackets, hats & gloves (children & adults); blankets; P.J.'s (children); sanitary items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, etc.); wrapping paper, scotch tape; gift cards for the older children.

Anyone can assist on:

- Wednesday, Dec. 18th @ 6:00 p.m. at St. Pat's Church for sorting toys for ages, Infant to 12 years of age.
- Thursday, December 19th @ 6:00 p.m. at St. Pat's Church for the sorting and boxing of all non-perishable items.

Anyone Post High School age:

- Saturday, December 21st @ 8:00 A.M. at St Pat's for the distribution of toys, food baskets and warming items.

**All items to be donated must be delivered to St. Patrick Church by December 6th so that the team can determine what additional items they need to purchase. The team is proposing that they will serve approximately 120 families this year so the need is Great!*

Finally, if you are aware of any one from the Otsego area or attends an Otsego church, and is in need of assistance of a food basket/toys —the recipient must be aware of the program and want to receive the basket and other goodies. All names along with their phone number, must be received by St. Patrick's church (Nancy Bump, 419-265-7616) by 3:00 P.M. on Friday, Dec. 6th

Community children's event – “A Night in Bethlehem” by Pastor Bridgett

On December 7 at 5 pm, we will offer a Christmas family-friendly experience entitled, A Night in Bethlehem. The families will pretend to stroll through the streets of Bethlehem the night Jesus was born. On the stroll, they will discover how to make grain, butter, prayer shawls, pottery, wood and tin working, shoes, and a dress up/ photo opportunity to capture the memories. To end the evening, the visitors will celebrate the Christ, with a live nativity. Join us in prayer, participation and spreading the word for this event made to prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus.

Poinsettia

It is time to order Poinsettias this year and the price is \$12.50 per plant. Many of you have supported this project in the past to assist with making our church beautiful throughout the Christmas season. If you would like to donate a poinsettia to the church in memory of a family member or to honor someone (family member, church member etc.), please let me know either by e-mail (cahofner@gmail.com) or you can sign up at church on the sign-up that will be passed around.

The plants will be delivered to the church and they will be displayed in front of the church until the week after Christmas, at which time you are very welcome to take them home with you. Thank you for your support on this project.

Otsego Food Pantry

While grocery shopping, don't forget to pick up additional items to donate to the Otsego Food Pantry. Suggested items for November are Soup, Crackers, Canned Meats, or Denture Cream/Cleaner. Suggested items for December are Canned Beans, Beef Stew, Kleenex or Paper Towels.

Calendar of Events

Nov. 24 – Christ the King Sunday

Nov. 30 – Hanging of the Greens – 9:30 am

Dec 1 – First Sunday of Advent, 2024 Otsego Christmas Box program donations due at church (if you want the church to deliver)

Dec 6 - Otsego Christmas Box program donations due to St. Patrick Church

Dec 7 – 5 pm, Christmas family-friendly experience - A Night in Bethlehem

Dec 9 - Church Leadership meeting 7pm, basement

Dec 15 – Birthday Party for Jesus/White Elephant gift exchange - a \$15 white elephant gift for each person that is playing the game. Wrap your gift but do not label who it is to or from. Food is provided

Dec 18 – Otsego Christmas Box program - 6:00 p.m. at St. Pat's Church for sorting toys

Dec 19 – Otsego Christmas Box program - 6:00 p.m. at St. Pat's Church for the sorting and boxing of all non-perishable items.

Dec 21 – Otsego Christmas Box program 8:00 A.M. at St Pat's for the distribution of toys, food baskets

Dec 24 – Christmas Eve service 8pm

Photo Gallery



Quarter
Auction
2024





Trick
Or
Treat



New Members

