

# Calvary Protestant Evangelical Free Church

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## CALVARY CHRONICLE

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I read this article by Dr. Ed Welch on my favorite counseling site - [ccef.org](http://ccef.org) - and thought you would be encouraged by it.

Pastor Charles Lucchesi

### God Wants You To Call Him “My Father”

There is not one psalm that is addressed to “Father,” “My Father,” or “Our Father.” So when the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray, and he opened with: *“Father, hallowed be your name”* (Luke 11:2), it must have seemed foreign to them. They had heard Jesus pray this way. Now he invited them to address the Holy God of Sinai as their Father too. This signaled that big changes were ahead. And he invites you, and he invites me, to share in those changes.

Since the name *father* summons all kinds of memories for us, here are three passages that fill that name with accurate content.

1. Luke, in his account of this prayer, is especially interested in correcting misunderstandings of God our Father. He knew that we would need help. Scripture identifies more bad fathers than good ones, so he ends the prayer with Jesus’ extended reflection on God our Father. An average, relatively decent father, he says, will not respond to a child’s request for food by giving that child a snake. And if fathers who are “evil” can do good things, how much more will your heavenly Father give the very best gifts to his children who ask? So, though God can be compared to what is best in your own father or any father, he is vastly more generous and gives incomparably better gifts.
2. Luke later includes for us one of the most prized New Testament stories about God-as-Father in

the parable of the prodigal son. A father shamed and treated as though dead, who delights to forgive, is filled with compassion for a son whose trouble was of his own making. He blesses his son with jewelry, new clothes, and a feast. All the son did was return home destitute, feeling unworthy of any mercy and grace. There is no earthly father to whom this Father can be compared.

3. The third passage is one of the handful of Old Testament passages that speak of God as our father, and it has been a true gem to me. In this verse, God is speaking to Judah, the southern kingdom of Israel. They have forgotten the Lord and will not listen to him. Yet the Lord, by way of Jeremiah, persists to warn and invite his prodigal children back to himself.

[The Lord] said, *“How I would set you among my sons, and give you a pleasant land, a heritage most beautiful of all nations. And I thought you would call me, My Father, and would not turn from following me.”* (Jeremiah 3:19)

This time the son doesn’t return. In response, the Lord reveals his desire. He still wants to be called, “my Father.” This desire is not a response to the people’s repentance because there was none. It is simply the inclination of his heart, and it is critical we know this.

(continued on next page)

We will never understand why our creator and rescuer would *want* to serve us, forgive us, be with us, and be called "my father." But it is true. Your God is eager for you to. He loves it. It pleases him.

Recently, something happened that gave me insight into this. I was on a beach with my grandchildren. A few of my grandsons had struck up a nice relationship with two brothers who were like-minded boogey boarders, and they were all coming in my direction. "This is my Griffy [my grandfather name]," announced my grandsons to these two boys. The boys intuitively knew that I was not *their* Griffy, so they simply gave me a kind greeting. The moment, of course, was a highlight of my day, because I couldn't be more pleased to be called "my Griffy" by my grandsons. I want to be their Griffy; I like being their Griffy; I am honored to be their

Griffy; and I will always be their Griffy, even when they are horrid, which does occasionally happen.

My Father - the Spirit of Christ teaches us to address our prayers - to *my* Father. So like the disciples, we, too, will gradually learn this most remarkable feature of New Testament prayer. Jesus is the Son and we, joined with him, share in this relationship. The same easy confidence with which Jesus prayed to his Father can now be our own (Hebrews 4:16). And given how this closeness and familiarity are the most unexpected features of how we pray, "My Father" can always leave us amazed. Go ahead and insert it into the beginning of any psalms you read and place it next to the other names of God. Scripture will immediately be more intimate, as your Father intended it to be.

## **Church Updates**

There are so many people who are anxious for this pandemic to be over. But we still must keep vigilant in keeping everyone safe.

Two worship services take place each Sunday: **9:30 a.m. service is held downstairs; 11:00 a.m. service is held upstairs in the sanctuary.** Face masks must be worn during the service, and to physically distance from one another seating is separated.

**Children's Church** meets via Zoom Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. The kids are learning about the life of Jesus while on earth.

The **Wednesday Night Bible Study** meets at the church at 7:00 p.m. The men and women are studying from the book of John I, and also have a time of prayer.

The **Ladies Bible Study** meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month via Zoom at 7:30 p.m. The ladies are studying the book of Acts.

There are a number of options in donating and tithing to the church. When attending a service, there is an offering plate in the back of the room; donations can be mailed directly to the church or even dropped off in the church mailbox; or you can donate on-line through the church website using PayPal.

For those who cannot attend the Sunday service, the sermon is still being recorded and will be posted on the church website ([www.cpcbaldwin.com](http://www.cpcbaldwin.com) - click on "YouTube") and streamed on YouTube at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) (search for Calvary Church, Baldwin, NY).

## **Keeping Connected With The Church**

Each week e-mails are sent to the family and friends of Calvary. These e-mails contain church updates and announcements, and prayer requests and health updates.

The Missions Committee would also like to keep the church family connected with the many missionaries the church is affiliated with. Updates will still be printed in the newsletter, or periodically they will be e-mailed to everyone on our weekly e-mail list.

If you have not been receiving these e-mails, contact the church office and we will make sure you are added to the contact list. Don't miss out on the most current information.

## **Looking Ahead**

**This year Easter falls on Sunday, April 4th.**

**Praying for new life in our country and in our churches.**

# Staying Close To God



Many in the church family know our dear Sister Elsie - a very spirit-filled disciple who is bold about her faith and walk with the Lord. I had the privilege of recently talking to Elsie, and she expressed her thoughts on how she stays focused and close to God during these challenging times.

First, Elsie downloaded a Bible App to her phone and tablet (she uses the KJV, but there are other Bible apps available). She can literally carry God's Word wherever she goes. She can read the scriptures, or even listen to an audio version. The Bible app includes daily, uplifting devotionals. There is also a section in the app with biblical quizzes for testing her knowledge of the Bible. Every day Elsie reads about ten trivia questions. Most of the questions include multiple-choice answers. If she answers the question correctly, she is rewarded with a bell sound letting her know she is right. If she is stumped or answers incorrectly, the question includes the Bible passage where it will lead her to find the correct answer. Many times her sisters and friends speak with one another to see who answered the questions correctly, and to also talk about the Bible passage.

We all know that a way to stay close to God is through prayer. Our lives can get busy, so Elsie downloaded a Prayer App to help her schedule time to pray. Sporadically throughout the day chimes ring which signals Elsie to stop what she is doing and pray to God. Doesn't matter where she is - could be at home, at the store, while spending time with friends, at the dentist office, or wherever. Even if it is just a minute, her focus will be on God. She is so thankful to Him for all He has done for her, and she prays for so many others as well.

Elsie also recommends watching "The Chosen" which is a multi-season drama series based on true stories of the life of Jesus Christ, as seen through the eyes of those who knew Him. The series is available for free by downloading the "The Chosen" app to your phone or tablet, or through other media apps as well.

Sister Elsie truly loves the Lord, believes it is our faith in God that keeps us going, we need to focus on Him, and keep each other in the Word of God. What a great example she is setting by staying connected to God.

## MEALS FOR SENIORS

To celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior, meals will once again be offered to our seniors, shut-ins, or those in need for Easter. Look for more details in the next newsletter.

## WHY GO TO CHURCH!

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday.

He wrote: "I've gone for 30 years now, and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time, the preachers and priests are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."



This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column.

Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this: They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

**When you are DOWN to nothing, God is UP to something!**

**Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible, and receives the impossible!**

**Thank God for our physical and our spiritual nourishment!**

**IF YOU CANNOT SEE GOD IN ALL, YOU CANNOT SEE GOD AT ALL!**

**B.I.B.L.E. simply means: Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth!**

# Calvary Chronicle

Calvary Protestant Church  
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Baldwin, NY 11510

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## BIRTHDAYS

### FEBRUARY

1st Nadia Elcock  
2nd Barbara Lucchesi  
3rd Amelia Rose Mandato  
4th Peg Corcoran  
12th Ruth Mason  
16th Aaron Nehring  
17th Kirsten Watts  
19th Mary Lou Ekstrom  
26th Carol Chalavoutis  
26th Joshua Lucchesi

### MARCH

4th Susan Deedy Mahoney  
7th Natalie Heneghan  
8th Gisele Sandoval  
14th Danny Forbes Breen  
15th Christina Mandato  
16th Patti Senita  
17th David Fazzino  
18th Lucas Nehring  
18th Laura Nicolich  
18th Emilyn Porter  
19th Evelyn Sangster Barnes  
21st Lois Smith  
22nd Melinda Jones  
22nd Karen Senita  
23rd Elijah Toussaint  
23rd Brant Waldvogel  
24th Bill Chalavoutis  
24th Michael Nicolich (Jr.)  
25th Larry Kulla  
29th Tom Corcoran  
30th Carmine Dapice  
30th Bonnie Rose

**Happy  
Birthday!**

## ANNIVERSARIES

### FEBRUARY

3rd Pete & Mary Lou Ekstrom  
20th Brett & Melissa Rose

### MARCH

17th Joe & Thalia Waldvogel  
27th Cecil & Debbie Porter  
30th Paul & Rose Nembhard

### The primary importance in worship

One of the greatest discoveries of my Christian pilgrimage has come with the realization that the primary importance in worship is not what I do, but what God is doing. In worship, God is present, speaking to me, and acting upon me. It is in worship that God feeds, nourishes, and cares for me. And it is in worship that he gives me his grace, surrounds me with his love, lifts me into his arms, affirms me as a member of his community, and sends me forth into the world with a fresh vision of his work and a new concern to live for him.

- Robert W. Webber in *Worship Is a Verb*