

As We Gather

The Feast of the Epiphany is a celebration of Christ's divine nature manifested in the humanity of the child Jesus in Bethlehem. Beginning with the Wise Men from the east, down through the present day, all nations are coming to His light, and kings to the brightness of His rising. The visitation of the Magi is the first unfolding in time and space of the mystery of Christ, which is that all people are fellow heirs, members of one Body, and participants in the promises of Jesus through the Gospel. In the presence of such a child—God in human flesh who brings all people into oneness with Himself—the royal visitors cannot but worship, offering such gifts as gold, frankincense, and myrrh in grateful response to the love of God made manifest in the humanity of Jesus.

PRELUDE**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING****COMMISSIONING OF KARENNI MINISTRY LEADERS** (10:45 am service)**OPENING HYMN:***"As With Gladness, Men of Old"***Hymn #397****INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Let us make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

(please kneel)

Almighty God, who revealed Your glory when the Son became man,

We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name.

Amen.

The God whose glory is revealed in the human life of Jesus hears your confession, and for Jesus' sake freely forgives you. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE:

"O Morning Star"

**O Morning star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and light,
Aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's race, King David's son,
Our Lord and master, You have won
Our hearts to serve You only!
Lowly, holy! Great and glorious,
All victorious, rich in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!**

**Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine,
And deep within our hearts now shine;
There light a flame undying!
In You one body let us be
As living branches of a tree,
Your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily
Earth's deep sadness, may perplex us
And distress us,
Yet with heav'nly joy You bless us.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star You made known Your only-begotten Son to the Gentiles. Lead us, who know You by faith, to enjoy in heaven the fullness of Your divine presence; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated.)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 60:1–6 *(The people of the nations come to worship the King.)*

¹ Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ² For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. ⁶ A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING: Ephesians 3:1–12 (*The mystery of Christ revealed: good news for all people.*)

¹ For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner for Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— ² assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, ³ how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. ⁴ When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵ which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. ⁶ This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

⁷ Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God’s grace, which was given me by the working of his power. ⁸ To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, ¹⁰ so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. ¹¹ This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, ¹² in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA VERSE:

G Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL IS ANNOUNCED:

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the second chapter.

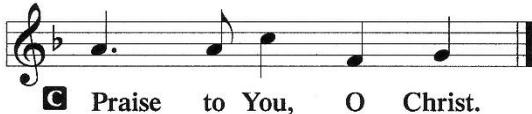
G Glo - ry to You, O Lord.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 2:1–12 (*The Wise Men visit the child Jesus and His mother, Mary.*)

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: ⁶ "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



THE CHILDRENS MESSAGE

Vicar Aaron Sterling

HYMN OF THE DAY:

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Hymn #411

THE MESSAGE

"Wise Men Still Seek Him"

Pastor David Brighton

COMMISSIONING OF KARENNI MINISTRY LEADERS (8:00 am service)

THE APOSTLES' CREED:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE GATHERING OF THE TITHES AND OFFERINGS

++ The Stewardship Thought ++

"Epiphany" is a word that means to reveal or make known. The Epiphany season is about a most important revelation: the revealing of Jesus Christ as the Savior of the nations!

Ponder Simeon's words as he held the baby Jesus:

"My eyes have seen Your salvation!" (Luke 2:30)

THE OFFERTORY:

"What Child Is This"

**What child is this, who, laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary!**

**So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king to own Him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!**

THE PRAYERS: After each petition, the Worship Leader will say, *"Lord in Your mercy,"* and the congregation will respond, *"Hear our prayer."*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make His face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favor and give us peace.

Amen.

THE CLOSING HYMN:

"The People that in Darkness Sat"

Hymn #412

A MOMENT FOR SILENT PRAYER

THE POSTLUDE

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our Altar Flowers were provided this week by Marsha Longbine, in honor of her retirement.

Proposed By-laws Changes Available for Review - At the January Voters Assembly, we will be looking at the proposed changes to our By-laws developed by our Constitution Review Committee over the last few months. Please see the copy on the Information Desk. It is also available to view or download at <http://mountcalvaryga.org/bylaws/>. Changes are indicated in red strikeout and yellow highlight.

A Note of Thanks. We received the following note from President Greg Walton following his visit the first weekend in December: "Please thank all the folks at Mt. Calvary, not only for their warm reception, but for the generous donation to the President's Circle. It was a great joy to be there and see the flash mob and meet so many nice people. I am grateful for your partnership. Thanks again, and Merry Christmas." (The Board of Elders approved a gift to the President's Circle, a special fund that the District President uses to help church workers with emergency needs.)

I sincerely appreciate being remembered by the Christmas gift I received from the congregation. It is truly a pleasure to work with the staff at Mount Calvary and to have so many great friends within the membership. You are all a great blessing. Again many thanks. - Don Netzinger

The next Men's Breakfast will be on Saturday, January 21st at 8:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. Please sign up on the sheet at the Information Desk. The Men's Choir will rehearse immediately following the breakfast and will sing on January 22nd.

All Elders and Ushers are asked to attend a Safety Seminar on Saturday, January 21st at 9:00 am in the Fellowship Hall. The Seminar will include training for providing First Aid (CPR/AED) as well as a comprehensive review of the Mt. Calvary Emergency Action Plan.

We a making our first venture into Men's Basketball. Games are played at the Recreation Department Gym or at First Baptist Church Garmon Street's Gym. This week we are playing Hebron Fellowship Baptist at the Rec Dept on Monday at 8:00 pm, and Ramoth Gilead at the Garmon Street Gym on Thursday at 8:15 pm. Please come out and cheer for our team.

Monika Reynolds' daughter's address, for anyone who might want to send a sympathy card:
Liz Wilson, 195 Old Perry Road, Bonaire, GA 31005.

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I just want to thank the entire congregation for their Christmas gift. I truly have been blessed over these past five months to have been here at Mt. Calvary! I look forward to what God has in store for all of us in the new year! - Thanks, Vicar Aaron

Thank you! Marcia and I would like to thank our church family for your generous gift, as well as the many cards and other gifts we received this Christmas. We appreciate so much being part of such a loving and caring church family! May God bless us all in the New Year! *Pastor and Marcia Brighton*

Mount Calvary has received a memorial donation in honor of Josie Kong, Evy Keyes mother, from John & Liz Hunter.

Mount Calvary has received memorial donations in honor of Monika Reynolds from Caroline Martin, John & Marie White, Dave & Lois Harter, Jimmy & Ginger Martin, Joan Steese, Riley Hood, John & Liz Hunter, Patricia Wilson and the Wells family.

Daytime Callers share Christ's love and concern with shut-ins and others who need to know that we at Mt. Calvary care for them. We meet this **Monday, January 9th, in the church conference room at 11:00 am.**

Great news! The online marketing firm, Amazon is now offering to donate 0.5% of the amount of all orders to the charity of your choice, and it costs you (and our church) nothing! Naturally, many of our members and friends may want to take advantage of this "free money" for our church. Visit <http://tinyurl.com/hdv9vhh> to learn how to activate this benefit, or just go to the church website main page and click on "Amazon Smile" under "Announcements." An Amazon page will open and you can learn from there how to set it up. Just please be sure to designate Mount Calvary Lutheran Church as the beneficiary.

Helping Hands Christmas Dinner Recap – Once again, with the help of the Warner Robin's Community, our congregation was able to put on a successful Christmas Dinner! At the dinner we were able to feed about 70 visitors, while giving away books, toys, purses, toiletries, bread, and other items. However, the biggest success of this year's dinner was the deliveries, we were able to send out well over 150 meals to families in need! It is truly a wonderful service that we were able to provide as one of our ways of saying "thank you" to our God for all that he has provided us with! Now, I need to say thank you to all of you, because this event could not have taken place without the full support of this congregation. All in all we had over 75 volunteers show up to help on Christmas Day, and that doesn't included the several dozen families who helped set up, donated money, bought and prepared food, or helped spread the word! The amount of effort, from so many different people, that went into making this happen is astounding. This event is a perfect example of the amazing things that can be done through God's love within the Body of Christ. I truly cannot thank you all enough for going above and beyond to make this year's dinner a success!
In Christ, Vicar Aaron

The Ladies Guild meeting for January 9th has been cancelled. The next meeting will be February 13th.

Thank you to all who sent us Christmas cards, gift cards, and the special monetary gift on Christmas Eve. We have certainly been blessed by our church family. We love Mount Calvary Lutheran Church, and we appreciate the many Christmas gifts from you. God's blessings to you in the New Year!! Let's remember in the 500th year of the Reformation...it is still all about Jesus!!

- The Nelson Family

Thank-You! Sonja, the boys and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of Mount Calvary for your amazing support of our ministry and life among you. While your generous Christmas gift is greatly appreciated, we are continually humbled by the many ways you support our family. With the addition of both Rebecca's Garden and our ministry to the I want to Burmese community I continue to be amazed at the heart for ministry members of Mount Calvary live out on a daily basis. Thank you again for everything! Pete, Sonja, and the boys!

2017 Offering envelopes are ready. You can pick yours up on the tables near the information desk. If you want offering envelopes and don't find yours on the table, please call Jack in the office.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Phyllis Yeager, Bob's mom, who is recovering from surgery to remove cancerous lymph nodes from under her arm.

Doris Snow, who is hospitalized.

Kurt Rover, who is hospitalized.

Ruth Brighton, Pastor's mother, who will have surgery on January 13th.

Irving Peterson, Roger's father, who is home after being hospitalized because of a seizure.

Diana Iverson, Bonnie Hudlin's sister-in-law, who has been diagnosed with cancer.

Laura Haas, who remains hospitalized with a trach tube, but is off the ventilator.

Keep In Your Prayers

Ronald Ragan (Regina's brother), Opal Key (Dianne Damron's mother), Alyce Quillin, Margaret Jennings, Cameron Mastenbrook, Rosie Schulz, Erika Swaim (Marcia Brighton's mother), John White, Pastor Brighton, Deloris Denzine and Karen Johnson.

(NOTE: Those listed under "Keep in your prayers" are removed from the list after eight weeks. If there is someone you would like to keep on the list for another eight weeks, please contact the church office.)

Those Battling Cancer

Those battling cancer: Barry Rice (Becky McVay's brother), Norma Young (Melinda Hopf's aunt), Kathy Grube, Mary Schwope (Michele Durbin's aunt), Jeannette Poniske (Fred Tamer's mom) and Bruce Oswalt (Krystal Ferguson's father).

Those Serving our Country in Dangerous Areas

Benjamin Brighton, Darrin Landis, Denver Yarbrough, Jonathan Fetchik and Christian Corbitt, for safety and good health as they serve our country in dangerous areas.

SERVING US TODAY

PREACHER: Pastor David Brighton. **LITURGIST:** Vicar Aaron Sterling. **ELDERS:** Brian Harper (8 am) & D. J. Nelson (10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Sway Cronin (8 am) & Maddy Hagemann (10:45 am). **USHERS:** Early – Don Parrott, Ralph Wenrick, Dale Hawkins & Roger Foss. Late Paul Ferguson, Sam Culpepper, Dale Channell, Champ Aldredge & Mark Burnette. **ALTAR GUILD:** Cindy Branham, Anita McIntyre, JoAnn Smith & Arlene Zeuner. **LAY READERS:** Lexie Hadley (8 am) & Pat Aldredge (10:45 am). **SLIDE PREPARER:** Christi Bacon. **PROJECTIONIST:** Early - Lyle Wurdeman. Late – Kyle Webb.

SERVING US NEXT WEEK

ELDERS: Kenn Keyes (Sat 6 pm), Glen Thompson (Sun 8 am) & Mark Burnette (Sun 10:45 am). **ACOLYTES:** Taitum Gossman (Sat 6 pm), Caleb Durbin (Sun 8 am) & Libby Parsons (Sun 10:45 am). **ALTAR GUILD:** Sue Glaser, Barb Mabee, Ginger Martin, Kathy Robinson & Sharon Suckow. **LAY READERS:** Dave Nielsen (Sat 6 pm), Darron Counselman (Sun 8 am) and Jim Morey (Sun 10:45 am). **GREETERS:** Linda Phillips (Sun 8 am), and Paul & Dottie Brown (Sun 10:45 am).

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS

Isaiah 49:1-7 and 1 Corinthians 1:1-9

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK

Saturday - 66 Early – 46 Late - 93 Total - 205

THIS WEEK AT MOUNT CALVARY

Today	12-1:30 pm	Youth Board Meeting
	6:30 pm	SLDT Meeting
Monday	11:00 am	Daytime Callers
	6:20 pm	Evangelism Callers
	6:30 pm	Women's Small Group
Tuesday	4 – 7 pm	RG@MC Tutoring
	7:00 pm	Council
Wednesday	5:30 pm	Christian Fellowship & Education
	7:00 pm	Sanctuary Choir
Thursday	10:00 am	Ladies Bible Study
Saturday	12-2:30 pm	Middle School Bowling
	5:00 pm	Adult Bible Study
	5:00 pm	Praise Team Rehearsal
Next Sunday	6:30 pm	TAG Night