

# CALVARY FAMILY NEWS



February 2026

## Who Do You Love?

Well, It's February. And right smack in the middle of the month is Valentine's Day, the day we think about love. That got my thinking; why do we need a designated day to remind us to love the ones who are special to us? Shouldn't that just be part of who we are? Apparently not. Jesus was asked what was the greatest commandment in the Law and His response wasn't about sacrificing or living a sinless life. Jesus made it very clear that one thing was more important than anything else.

*37 And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. 38 This is the great and first commandment.*

*39 And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

*40 On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. "*

*Matthew 22:37-40*

The Great Commandment: Love God, Love People. It's kind of sad that we have to be commanded to do those two things. But unfortunately, the only one we love naturally is ourselves, and we don't even do such a great job of doing that either. I find the Old Testament origins for those two commandments very enlightening. In the first one, Moses gives a summary of the Law in Deuteronomy and after retelling the Ten Commandments in chapter five, Yahweh gives them the "how to" in chapter six.

*4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

*Deuteronomy 6:4-7*

In *Leviticus 19:9-18* we are told how to interact with those around us using seventeen "you shall not's" and four "you shall's." At the end Moses wrapped it all together in one statement.

*"...but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord."*

*Leviticus 19:18b*

Loving God and Loving people is not in our nature, it is supernatural and we, as children of God, have the Holy Spirit living in us to help. It takes work but it is so worth it.

**Serving Him,**  
**Pastor Karl**



### February Birthdays

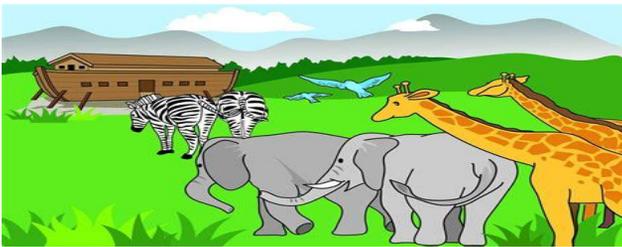
24 Cheri Smith



Potluck Sendoff for Terrie, after our Worship Time on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Please bring your favorite dish, and we will have a happy-sad time letting Terrie know how much we appreciate her and will miss her.

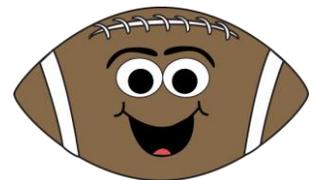
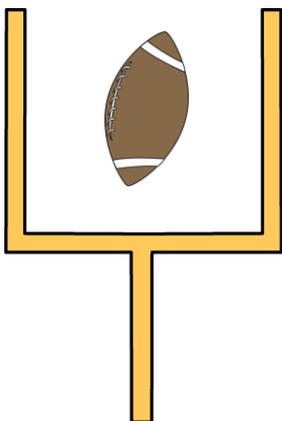
**P.S. March 9<sup>th</sup> is Terrie's Birthday!**



**Noah's Ark Themed the Compassion Center's Banquet** 5 – 8 pm on Friday, February 6 at the Nazarene Church! There will be a silent & live auction, a delicious meal with special folks (like you) to raise money for all the Compassion Center's ministries benefiting others! Tickets can be purchased at [NOCCBaker.org](http://NOCCBaker.org)

Items for our March Family Newsletter are due Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>! Thanks!

(I will be out of state to a wedding & visiting family so will be out later.)



### Super Bowl Party at Dennis' Place!

Will be a fun time of Football (or Commercial) Watching, Games, and Snacks! So bring your favorite one to enjoy & share on Sunday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, the kick off is at 3:30 pm, and you're welcome to arrive so you can watch it, at the Wright Place! You could wear your favorite team shirt and enjoy fun, food, fellowship & silliness with our church family & guests!

## “Wisdom through Suffering” ECCLESIASTES 7:1–13

*“It is better to go the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart” (Ecclesiastes 7:2).*

No evangelical Christian disagrees with the proposition that “God is sovereign.” Certainly, not every believer has a biblical understanding of sovereignty — denying as they do God’s sovereign election — but no Christian would say that God is not Lord over all, for the Lord’s sovereignty is declared throughout Scripture.

When we meet intense suffering, however, there is a strong temptation for us to deny either God’s goodness or His sovereignty. This is because pain can lead us to forget the Lord’s purposes for us while we suffer. The truth of the matter is that God uses pain to discipline us, sanctify us, and give us wisdom (*Heb. 12:3–17*). Paradoxically, trouble should make us affirm even more strongly that our Creator is sovereign and good, that while bad things are not good in themselves, God nevertheless has a good purpose for letting them into our lives. Pain, when we respond to it in the power of the Holy Spirit, conforms us to Christ, and the “*school of hard knocks*” gives us a wisdom that we could never enjoy if we lived a life free of difficulty.

Ecclesiastes presents this truth well, encapsulating it in the statement that “*it is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting*” (*Eccl. 7:2*). Parties and feasts are good and fun, providing the rest, recreation, and fellowship that all human beings need. Yet they are not, in the main, useful for contemplating eternity. While there is an appropriate time to celebrate and make merry, we too easily enjoy such occasions without reference to the Lord our God. Grieving with a sober heart, however, orients us to the things of God in a way that celebration cannot. Tragedy and death remind us that life is fleeting, that this world has not yet been renewed, and that we need to put our hope in the Lord and not in the fleeting pleasures of this world (*1 John 2:15–17*).

Christians are not to be dour people; indeed, we are to be filled with joy (*Phil. 4:4*). Still, this is not a frivolous happiness but a joy rooted in what our Father has done for us in sending His Son and sealing us with His Spirit. It is in our mourning that we gain a greater taste of the grief and sorrow that was required to purchase our redemption when Jesus went to the cross for us. If even He “*learned obedience through what he suffered*” (*Heb. 5:8*), we should not think that less will be required of us. (Submitted by F.S.)

### Filled to the Brim!

That’s what our Calvary’s Kitchen Items Basket, “Provisions for the Flood” looks like before they took it to arrange for the Compassion Center’s Banquet! (I did get nervous when someone asked if the items could be bigger than the basket, and I said “Yes!” But she went with a Plan B, and did not relinquish any of her goats! It contained some coffees, brownie mixes & cupcake silicon cups with animal picks, animal crackers, chocolate pretzels, wooden utensils & holder, “paw shaped” tongs, cutting boards, animal-shaped cookie cutters & candy molds, solitary dominos, gift cards, animal towels, embossed rolling pin, Noah’s Ark mugs & dove salt cellar. A wide variety of fun provisions for the kitchen for the auction!





# FEBRUARY 2026



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 6pm Men's Bible Study 6pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:07 pm YoungLife @BMS	3 10:30 a - 1:30pm CBC Serves Lunch at the Sr. Center!	4 	5 5-6 pm Community Dinner-Karl's Famous French Toast 6 pm Celebrate Recovery	6 9 am Ladies' First Friday Breakfast at Truck Corral  5 pm NEOCC Banquet at Nazerene Church	7
8 9am Church Body Prayer 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery Super Bowl Party 	9 6m Men's Bible Study 6pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:07 pm YoungLife @BMS	10	11	12 5-6 pm Community Dinner-Tasty & Delicious! 6 pm Celebrate Recovery	13	14 
15 9am Church Body Prayer 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery	16 6pm Men's Bible Study 6pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:07 pm YoungLife @BMS	17	18	19 5-6 pm Community Dinner-Delightful Dinner! 6 pm Celebrate Recovery 	20	21
22 9am Church Body Prayer 10am Worship, Children's Church & Nursery Terrie's Potluck Sendoff	23 6pm Men's Bible Study 6pm Ladies' Bible Study 7:07 pm YoungLife @BMS	24	25 	26 5-6 pm Community Dinner-Cooks' Cuisine! 6 pm Celebrate Recovery	27	28
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