

Calvary Courier

January 2017

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor,

So, maybe it was a good thing that I was not the preacher at last night's installation service for the new pastors at First Lutheran in Geneseo.

Installation services are times of excitement and anticipation for congregations. For both the pastors and the congregations it is a time to dream of what might be....of new possibilities. It is, in a sense, like the beginning of marriage when the young groom sees his new spouse as the fairy princess and the bride sees only a knight in shining armor. It is a wonderful time when the whole world seems to be filled with hope of endless potential.

And so, as I sat in a sanctuary brimming with such anticipation last night, I listened to the words of Isaiah in the first reading. Isaiah writes:

⁶*A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass. (Isaiah 40:6-7)*

"Now that," I think to myself, "would be a great message for an installation service."

"Listen, new pastors and excited congregation members," I imagine myself preaching. "Hear what Isaiah says. You are nothing but grass. You will wither and fade."

Like I said at the beginning of this letter, it is probably a good thing I wasn't preaching last night – and if this letter gets around I will probably never be asked to preach at anyone's installation.

Yet at the same time, I truly believe it is important for those pastors and congregants – and you and me – to hear the message of Isaiah. We are all grass. And so to put our hope in any pastor, staff member, or group of congregational members is to misplace our hope. No pastor or member or group of people will make a congregation great. We will all, in time, wither and fade.

Listen, instead to the next verse from Isaiah:

⁸*The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
(Isaiah 40:8)*

While we are like grass that withers and fades, our true hope rests in the Word of God that will stand forever. Isaiah's words are a not very subtle reminder to us that this is not our church and we are not the savior. It is, rather, God's church and Christ is the savior. What must always be at the center of all we say and do is the Word of God. That is what gives us our strength and our hope.

I know that it is customary as one year ends and another begins to reflect on what has been and offer a message of encouragement for the possibilities of the new year. To offer a message that begins with "we are grass," may not seem very hopeful. But it is a message that I think should be at the heart of our new year's thoughts. Where our hope must reside and where endless possibilities exist is in the Word of God that will stand forever.

In Christ,
Pastor Knowles

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Please join us on **Christmas Eve** for our Sunset Service at 4:00 p.m. as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

On **Christmas Day** at 10:00 a.m. join us for a worship service of Lessons and Carols as we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

STILL LOOKING FOR A HOLIDAY GIFT?

Here's an idea

FAIR TRADE

If you are still undecided on a Christmas gift, look no farther than Fair Trade products. We have a variety of items in the Upper Room. Remember, our church is not only helping others, but also receives a small token for being a sponsor of Fair Trade products.



The Holiday Office Schedule for the week of **December 26**

Dec. 26 through Jan. 2, 2015 – Office Closed

***Pastor Knowles and Teri Griebel** will be on vacation from Dec. 26 through Jan. 2.

For **pastoral emergencies**, please contact **Pastor Conway** at Trinity Lutheran Church – 762-3624 or **Pastor Witkowski** at First Lutheran Church – 309-764-3517 or you may call Pastor Knowles at 815-866-9595.

Jan. 3, 2015 – Tuesday – Office Open – 9:00 AM



The **ANNUAL REPORT** information is due in the church office by **Sunday, January 1**. You may either put your reports in my mailbox by the Upper room or you may email your reports to: secretary@calvarymoline.org

The **ANNUAL MEETING** will be held in Erlander Hall after worship on **Jan. 29th**.

Cantata Rehearsal



Cantata Rehearsal is 9:00 am on Saturday, Dec. 17. Please be here on time. We should be finished by noon.

We will need help with the set-up of Erlander Hall for the potluck on Sunday.

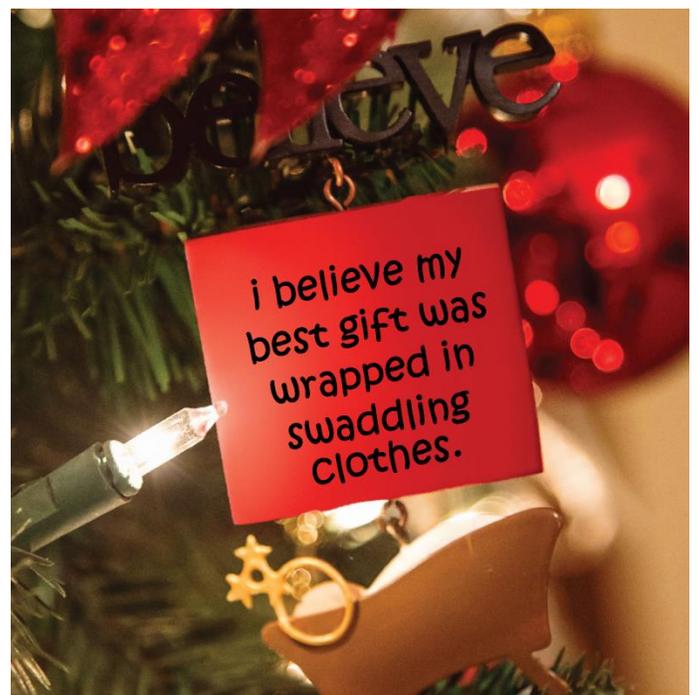


On Sunday, December 18 at 10:00 a.m. worship service, Calvary Choir will present a Christmas Cantata “The Heart of Christmas” a choral work by Pepper Choplin. Invite your family and friends to church and then stay for the Potluck dinner.

EVERYONE IS INVITED to the All Church Christmas Potluck Dinner after the Choir Cantata Service, on Sunday, December 18th in Erlander Hall. Please bring a dish to share. Table service and beverages provided! **All WELCA** members bring 2 dozen cookies for dessert.



*We will need help with the set-up of Erlander Hall for the potluck and with the clean-up afterwards.



JANUARY BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 – Chelsea Levesque
- 4 – John Mudd
- 7 – Gordon Nelson
- 14 – Rev. Don Knowles
- 16 – Ann Donahue
- 18 – Brianna Griebel
- 20 – Sandy Ohrn
- 21 – Pam Ohrn, Carl Lundstrom
- 23 – Brent Behrens
- 31 – Roy Woitte



DOROTHY HULTGREN has moved to Hope Creek – 4343 Kennedy Drive, East Moline, IL 61244 where she will continue to receive rehabilitation.

Happy Anniversary to:

- 7 – Dale & Joyce Armstrong



Currently Calvary provides a subscription to *Living Lutheran* magazine formally *The Lutheran* for every household in our congregation that would like to receive the magazine. This year the cost for the congregational plan is **\$8.95** per household per year. (An individual subscription is \$19.95/year.) If you are not receiving *Living Lutheran* and would like to, please contact the church office. Also, if you would no longer like to receive the magazine, let us know and we will remove your name from the subscription list. To help offset our cost of the subscriptions, envelopes will be available on the back table in the narthex. Any help you can provide toward your subscription to *Living Lutheran* would be greatly appreciated.



WELCA - All Calvary women are invited.

- * **Deborah Circle** – will not meet in January. Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 7 in the Upper Room. Marilyn Gross will be hostess
- * **HAPPY HOOKERS** - will meet on January 25th in Erlander Hall.

LUNCH BUNCH is back on the 3rd TUESDAY of the month.

Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, January 17th at 11:00 a.m. It's a time for fellowship and good food shared with Calvary's seniors and good friends. Don't miss it!!!! We will have Greg Johnson present a enlightening program on his trip to Romania.



It has been said that the most precious gift one can give is to show that they care. In practical terms, there are only two ways of showing how much you care for something or someone. One is the amount of time you give and the other is the amount of money you give to it. Take a minute to think about how you care for the one who gave you everything you have; your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Hats & Mitten for All –Be a part of the team!!!



We have a Thrivent Action team that has been busy knitting and crocheting scarves and hats for those in need this winter. You can be on our team by making or purchasing scarves, hats, gloves, or mittens and placing them on or under the tree in the narthex. We will collect them each Sunday in December and then bag them up for Jefferson Preschool, Christian Friendliness or the VA Homeless Outreach Center. We can accept all sizes. Thrivent has given us \$250.00 to help buy the items we do not get donated. Any questions, contact Pam Gross.

As we come to the end of our year at Calvary, we can see that many gave of their time with all the projects that have been done around the church. Many have given support to our members and the community with different outreach projects. Now it is time to look at our response with our monetary gifts. We have bills to pay before the end of the year. Our council has done a good job handling the money given, but we did vote for a budget that would be a challenge for us. It is time to rise to meet that challenge. I encourage you to think about your gifts to Calvary during this last month. Help us meet our obligations with your offerings and maybe a special gift before Dec. 31.

Yours in Christ, Pam Gross, Treasurer



Germany Trip

June 16 thru June 27, 2017

GERMANY TRIP

Join Pastor Randy Willers from Salem Lutheran as Germany celebrates the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his theses to the door of the Castle Church. This historical tour will follow the life of Martin Luther and the Reformation, visiting Bavaria, the famous King's Castles, Salzburg, Munich and more. Contact Pastor Willers if you are interested in joining the trip, 764-5614.

TIME & TALENT SURVEYS

Have you ever thought – Gee I could read the lessons or be a greeter on Sunday mornings. Or, I don't have the time to do much, but I could help out by providing food for funeral lunches or service projects or clean an area of the church? All these areas plus more are filled by those who have filled out a Serving Our Savior Time & Talent survey.



In last months' newsletter a survey was included for you to fill out and return. If you are unable to locate the newsletter, there are a few on the back table in the narthex. If you have not already done so, please look it over and consider volunteering.

You may turn in your sheet along with the offering on Sunday. We are still looking for help with Lunch Bunch and to help Carol Mayo and Ted Jackson with Feed the Hungry mission at Mt. Zion in East Moline every other month.



SIMPLY GIVING - Why not start 2017 with an easy way to stay up-to-date with your giving? The "Simply Giving" program is so easy to set up and allows you to automatically make contributions to Calvary on a schedule you decide upon. If interested, check with Pam Gross, our Treasurer,

RELAY FOR LIFE



The CALVARY CRUSADERS Relay Team has registered on the American Cancer Society's relay site for the coming year. We have already received donations which give us a good start. Thrivent Financial sent a year-end check for \$200 to the team. This year Rock Island and Scott Counties will combine to hold the relay. The date will be May13th, and it will be held at Bettendorf High School.

Several "combined relay" fund-raisers are being planned including a Quad Cities Mallards night on February 10th and a Circa 21 night on April 2nd. Also a t-shirt is being designed for sale to supporters with the theme, "Quad-Cities Strong." More information will appear in the weekly bulletins.

Anyone wishing to join the team may now register on the relay site, www.relayforlife.org/quadcitiesil. Our team organization meeting will be Jan. 15 at Coffee Hour when we will furnish the refreshments.



May each of you have a Blessed New Year.