



Calvary Courier

January 2016

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor,



*May the joy of the season and blessing of the Christ Child be
with you throughout the coming year.*

*In Christ,
Pastor & Mary Knowles*



All are welcome to come caroling on December 20 at 1:00 p.m. We will meet at church.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Special 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.



The Holiday Office Schedule for the weeks of December 21 and December 28:

Dec. 21 – Monday – Office Open – 9:00 AM
No Bible Study or Faithful Flexors.
Will meet again on January 4.

Dec. 22 – Tuesday – Office Open – 9:00 AM

Dec. 23 – Wednesday – Office Open – 9:00 AM

Dec. 24 through Jan. 2, 2015 – Office Closed

***Pastor Knowles and Teri Griebel** will be on vacation from Dec. 28 through Jan. 3. For pastoral emergencies, please contact Pastor Knowles at 815-866-9595.

Jan. 4, 2015 – Monday – Office Open – 9:00 AM

Jan. 5 – Teri will be back in the office at 9:00



Just a Reminder...

The **ANNUAL REPORT** information is due in the church office by Sunday, **Dec. 27**. 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. 31th**.



Christmas Cantata

*A **BIG Thank You** to Linda Johansen and the Calvary Choir Members for all the hard work they put in to perform the cantata “Winter’s Grace” on December 13th. A Special Thank You to Jim Johansen, Karla Kirkwood-Johnson and Gordon Nelson for reading the lessons and prayers associated with the cantata.*

STILL LOOKING FOR A HOLIDAY GIFT?
Here’s an idea

FAIR TRADE



Fair-Trade Christmas Gifts

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. (As in past years, my friends asked if I would give them the coffee and hot chocolate that I gave them last year.) Present solved! Remember, our church is not only helping others, but also receives a small token for being a sponsor of Fair Trade products.

Important – Regarding November 8th Offering



November 8 Offering

The November 8th offering has never cleared the bank. We are not sure exactly what happened, but it is apparently *lost*. All of the checks written that day or received during the week prior to November 8th, were endorsed to Calvary and therefore will not be able to be cashed. You should not need to call your bank and stop payment. Offerings from that day will not be included in the year-end statements. Please consider making a duplicate offering to help Calvary compensate for the lost offering. If you need additional information, please contact the church office. Pam Gros, treasurer, currently has a list of the members who gave that day.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

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



Happy Anniversary to:

- 7 – Dale & Joyce Armstrong
- 18 – Don & Dorothy Harmening (1958)



WELCA - All Calvary women are invited.

- ❄ **Deborah Circle** – will meet on Tuesday, January 5th. Hostess: Sharon Hough
- ❄ **Rachel Circle** - will meet will not meet in January. Our next meeting will be February 2nd.
- ❄ **Unit Meeting** - will not meet until March.
- ❄ **HAPPY HOOKERS** - will meet on January 27th in Erlander Hall.
- ❄ **SAVE THE DATE – WELCA** West Conference Prayer Retreat - **Saturday, January 23** from 9 a.m. to noon at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moline. **Listening to God** will be the focus, featuring the Rev. Dr. Janet Hunt.

SIMPLY GIVING - Why not start 2016 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,

Lunch Bunch - Tuesday, January 26th at 11:00 a.m. It's a time for fellowship and good food shared with Calvary's seniors and invited friends. The “marvelous” Monica Quinn will be entertaining with her take on the “50's” with music and jokes. Don't miss it!!!



During the month of December we received the following word of thanks....

🌲 I wish to express my heart-felt thanks to everyone for the hugs, comforting words, cards and memorials given in Mark's memory. Special thanks to Pastor, Linda and the choir for a beautiful service. Together Mark and I made our home in Moline and Calvary is like family for me. In three years' time, Mom has passed away in 2013, Tim in 2014 and now Mark, and I have drawn my strength from your friendship and the knowledge that they have attained their everlasting life with God. Blessings to all of you.

----- Mary Ann Behrens and sons, Brent & Bryan

🌲 **We would also** like to thank everyone who stayed for the potluck after the Christmas Cantata worship service. We had a good turn out with plenty of food and laughter. We would like to thank those who helped with set-up or with clean-up. Every small thing you do is a big help overall and the potluck would not be the success that it is without all of you.

---- Merry Christmas! Deborah and Rachel Circles

🌲 **THANK YOU** – What a wonderful response to the Thrivent Action Team project for Jefferson Early Learning Center. Jefferson's request was for children's backpacks and school supplies. With the \$250 seed money from Thrivent, 25 backpacks were purchased along with other needed items. Donations from donors filled a large laundry basket full of school supplies. The items were delivered on Monday, Dec. 14. Thank you to all who contributed – the school is so appreciative and sends their thanks for our ongoing help and interest in providing for them.

---- Marilyn Gross, Action Team Leader

🌲 **MANY THANKS** To Calvary Members & Friends who provided seven supper meals in 2015 to hungry people at Mount Zion Baptist Church in East Moline. This meal site is one of several meal sites setup by Churches United. Those people providing these Acts Of Community Service: Kay Chase, Barb Geerts, Teri Griebel, Pam Gross, Ted & Jan Jackson, Pastor Don Knowles, Charlene Lundstrom, Carol & Scott Mayo and their daughter & grandson, Henry Stromberg & her grand-daughter, and Karen Thorsvold. Thanks & Appreciation also go to all those contributing money to pay for the food served and/or those donating food.

----Ted Jackson

**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.



A special thank you to the ladies from East Moline Immanuel for giving the Happy Hookers the sewing machines from their sewing group.

We know the the machines will get lots of use. Also thank you to Gloria Fortin for her sewing machine. Our machines are getting quite old and have many problems, so these gifts are a wonderful treat. Thank you again.

Also, a big thank you to those who made monetary donations to the Happy Hooker Fund thru W.E.L.C.A. treasury. These funds helped us to provide fun baskets for our shut-ins. Sure the baskets will bring many smiles, so thank you for making this project possible.

Love and Hugs, Marilyn Mudd

Currently Calvary provides a subscription to *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 *The 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 *The Lutheran* would be greatly appreciated.



There will be a Blood Drive at Salem Lutheran Church on Saturday, January 23 from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. Food will also be served. If you would like schedule an appointment, please call Melody Schnell at (309) 764-5614 and leave your name, phone number and time you would like to come. Melody will get back to you.

Marilyn's Corner



Marilyn's Corner

We are so blessed at Calvary to have several Earth Angels. These angels don't want their names mentioned but just look around and you will see them working hard to correct problems we have. Some are cleaning, scrubbing and fixing the heat and cooling. Also, LOOK UP – some are on the roof, not just dancing around. Some are even in our garage making sure our equipment works well. Lots of earth angels also bring items for the less fortunate. Thank you Earth Angels and God Bless You.

---- Love & Hugs, Marilyn Mudd



All We Have Is His

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.

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

*May each of you have a
Blessed New Year.*