

Calvary Courier

October 2017

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor

As I write this our nation is recovering from two devastating hurricanes in the south and destructive wildfires out west. There has been tremendous physical damage, loss of life, and awful disruption of peoples' lives. In the midst of this horrific tragedy, actor Kirk Cameron (known for the TV series *Growing Pains* and the *Left Behind* movies) made public comments that imply that God caused such devastation and death in order to get our attention, "that weather is sent to cause us to respond to God in humility, awe and repentance."

As a part of his comments, he quoted from Job 37,

¹¹[God] loads the thick cloud with moisture;
the clouds scatter his lightning.

¹²They turn round and round by his guidance,
to accomplish all that he commands them
on the face of the habitable world.

¹³Whether for correction, or for his land,
or for love, he causes it to happen.

I think Mr. Cameron is wrong and in making such statements misrepresents God and the Christian faith.

Let me start with that assertion that Mr. Cameron certainly does not understand what the Book of Job is about. While Job is a complicated story (as those who participated in our recent study of the book will attest) the book as a whole deals with the question of God's role in human suffering. And while the author of the Book of Job does not draw any specific conclusion, the story clearly refutes the idea that God causes human suffering in response to human sin. Mr. Cameron takes the passage from Job 37 out of context to make a point contrary to the theology of the book. (If you would like to further explore the theology of Job, I would be glad to offer another study on the book.)

I take issue with Mr. Cameron's statement, however, not just because I think he uses faulty Biblical interpretation, but because I think his theology on this issue is dangerous. The implication of his comments is that God has intentionally caused the destruction, including the deaths of so many people, because of our sinfulness. While his theology is not uncommon, I

don't think it is Christian. Christian theology speaks of a God of love, compassion, mercy and forgiveness. I have a hard time understanding how a loving God would intentionally cause the drowning of a family in the Houston floodwaters or the deaths of eight nursing home residents in Florida. That's not merciful, that's cruel and certainly not the God revealed through Jesus.

Too often I have seen people who have encountered personal tragedy in their lives turned away from God and the Christian faith because of statements like Mr. Cameron's. Why, they ask, would God cause my child to suffer like that? What did I, or my child, do to make God so angry?

The answer, as I understand the witness of Jesus Christ, is that God did not cause that suffering. While human sin and a fallen world play a part in human suffering, the witness of Christ says that God forgives sin and is present to us even in the midst of our suffering. Christ weeps with us and stands with us. God isn't causing the suffering, but is there to alleviate the suffering. God is there in the first responders who risk their lives to save others. God is there in the chainsaw-wielding nun helping to clear debris. God is there in volunteers with organizations like the Red Cross or Lutheran Disaster Response. God is there in the millions of people who have donated billions of dollars to help restore lives that are in upheaval from these natural disasters.

So no, Mr Cameron, I will not, as you suggested, offer your words as a source of comfort to children in the midst of these tragedies. I think your theology is anything but comforting.

Instead, I will point to those who are there in the midst of the devastation who seek to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit those imprisoned by fear, and bring healing to those whose lives have been turned upside down and say "There is Christ." The God of love we worship is not one who reigns down suffering on his people but one who seeks to comfort those who suffer.

In Christ, *Pastor Knowles*

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 – Brett Daniel
- 3 – Dylan James Gross,
– Robert Fuller
- 6 – Jack Gross
- 7 – Alisha Jones
- 8 – Joyce Armstrong, Matt Mudd, Mike Mudd
- 9 – Jeanette Wren
- 11 – Bev Boyle
- 14 – Preston Fuller, Connie Langston
- 17 – Daniel Olson
- 20 – Norm Carbiener
- 22 – Matt Geerts
- 24 – Rosemary Roberts
- 25 – Bruce Daniel
- 27 – Gloria Fortin
- 28 – Dick Jensen
- 30 – Lorraine Beckingham



Happy Anniversary to:

- 3 – Scott & Carol Mayo (1987)
- 15 – Tim & Margo Miller (1977)
- 19 – Jim & Linda Johansen (1996)
- 27 – Peter & Sheila Doering (1974)
- 28 – Roger & Karen Thorsvold (1967)
- 30 – Steve & Kimmi Miller (2010)



CHURCH WORK DAY – OCTOBER 7

There will be a work day planned for Saturday, October 7 starting at 8:00 a.m. Trimming trees, sidewalks and bushes along with general cleaning in the building.

KITCHEN CLEANING - Ladies, on Work Day, October 7, let's have a "spruce-up/clean-up day dedicated to the kitchen & pantry downstairs. "Many hands make light work," so they say! Even if you can only devote a hour or two, it would be so welcome.

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER **DEADLINE is October 12**



Please be sure all items are into the church office by **October 12!** Also, **The Servant Calendar for November and December** needs to be finalized. If you know that you will be gone, especially during the months of December and January, please let me know. Thank You, Teri Adm. Assistant



We offer our sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Barb Daebelliehn. Barb passed away on Monday, Sept. 11. May you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ.



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

♥ Calvary, Hopefully my mom (Bev Boyle) will be able to attend church in a few weeks. Her bout with shingles has been debilitating. Thank you for all your prayers and get well card.

---- Christy Adamsen (daughter)

• We are now gearing up for fall programs as our tremendous summer outreach comes to an end in August! Your investment at YouthHope has the highest return rate possible. Lives being changed. We can't do it without you. Thank you.

---- Mark Drake, Executive Director

• Thank you for your contribution of \$146 to Churches United of the Quad City Area. Your contribution will help with E.Moline/Moline CareLINK program. With your contribution we will be able to continue our mission of serving our community. Thanks again for your contribution.

---- Blessings, Ann Barss Exe. Director

HAPPY HOOKERS



The Happy Hookers will meet on Wednesday, October 25, at 9:30 a.m. So many worthwhile projects are being made – you can always find something to do to help – no excuses!!! We meet on the last Wednesday of every month.

LUNCH BUNCH –



Tuesday, October 17 at 11:00 am in the Upper Room. Come and enjoy a good meal, and fun and fellowship with your Calvary friends – and don't forget to invite a neighbor or friend to come with you.

Thank you to everyone who contributed pull tabs. A part of the tabs are being delivered to Iowa City Ronald McDonald House by Michael Mudd and part of the tabs will be delivered to the Shiner's Organization for their Children Hospitals by John Mudd. Your tab donations are greatly appreciated and for all your help. --- Marilyn Mudd





WELCA NEWS

All Calvary women are invited to attend

❖ **Deborah Circle** – Tuesday, October 3 at 9:00 am in the Upper Room. Sharon Hough and Doris Henriksen, hostesses.

❖ **Salad Supper** – The ladies of Calvary will host a salad supper for the ladies of St. James Lutheran on **Thursday evening, September 28** at 6:00 p.m. Please bring a salad to share and join in the time of fellowship and sharing. Dessert will be furnished by the Deborah Circle.

WELCA WEST CONFERENCE FALL ASSEMBLY

Saturday, October 28, at 9:00 a.m., St. John's Lutheran Church, 4501 7th Street, Rock Island. Registration begins at 9:00 followed by a brunch and program. The Rev. Richard Hendricks of One Human Family will be the speaker, followed by the business meeting. Calvary will furnish the ushers and take the offering. There is a \$5.00 registration fee for our church.

Two in-kind offerings will be received –

- Closet to Closet (a program providing essential items for foster children, ages 8-18 needing socks, underwear and personal items)
- St. John's "Little Food Pantry" (used by neighbors. Popular items include non-perishable canned goods, can openers, snack foods, beans, rice, personal and paper products.)

Please contact Sue Knipe or Marilyn Gross if you plan to attend no later than Sunday, Oct. 22nd.

NORTHERN IL SYNOD WELCA CONVENTION

Delegate Marilyn Gross attended the convention on Saturday, Sept. 16 in Dixon, IL. The convention theme, "Lifting the Least," was taken from verses in the book of Matthew.

Bishop Jeffrey Clements led the worship service and was in attendance during the day. WELCA church wide Repr. Deborah Banks Williams addressed the gathering. Officers were elected and a budget of \$40,000 approved. Workshop topics were on bullying, suicide and addiction.

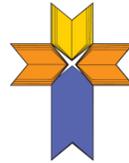
A convention booklet is on the side table in the Upper Room if anyone is interested.



Congratulations to Kimmi and Steve Miller on the birth their daughter. Lennon Rose was born on Tuesday, Sept. 12. She weighed 7 lbs, 2.8 oz. and 18 inches long. She is welcomed by big sister Addi, grandparents Margo & Steve Miller and Aunt & Uncle, Sue & LeVerne Knipe.

NEW FLOORING HAS BEEN INSTALLED

Calvary WELCA approved the installation of new flooring in Erlander Hall, hallways and kitchen downstairs and the kitchenette upstairs. The work has been completed and is being paid from WELCA treasury funds. It is our hope that everyone will enjoy this attractive and easy to clean flooring and it will serve us well for many years!

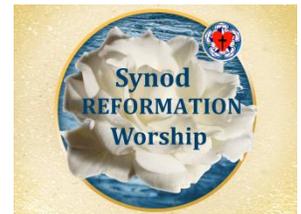


Celebrating Shared Ministry

You are invited to attend a worship service celebrating the shared ministries of Calvary and St. James Lutheran Churches. The service will be held on Sunday, November 19 at 2:00 pm at St. James (3145 31st Ave., Rock Island). Bishop Jeff Clements of the Northern Illinois Synod will preach and the service will include the installation of Pastor Knowles as the pastor at St. James. Please come and help celebrate this exciting new joint ministry.

Synod Reformation Worship

The people of the Northern Illinois Synod will gather for worship at 4:00 pm on Reformation Sunday, October 29 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Mendota. The service will include the ordination of Pastor Reed Peterson (called to Augustana, Andover) and Pastor Christopher Lee (called to First, Rock Island). Everyone is invited. If you would like to share a ride, please contact Pastor Knowles.



Lutherans

& Catholics....



United in our love for Christ, Lutherans and Catholics in Moline, IL, are coming together for an historic event marking the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

Please join us as we celebrate our "oneness" in Christ.

RELAY FOR LIFE FUNDRAISER



MALLARDS VS. IDAHO
STEELHEADS HOCKY GAME.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28 AT 7:00 PM

\$4.00 from each ticket will be donated to the Relay for Life events for the Quad Cities and for Mercer County. Cash and checks accepted at the Mallard's front office. Please make checks out to QCM Holding L.L.C. Order forms are on the hallway bulletin board. All order forms with payment must be submitted by Thursday, October 26 at 5:00 pm

THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS

Did you know...as of July, 2017, there were 76 Thrivent Action Teams with 586 participants raising funds for Relay for Life with goal of \$150,000. And, of course, the "**Calvary Crusaders**" were one of those teams!!! Thrivent is an American Cancer Society Partner Against Cancer.

Do you have a community project in mind that could use a Thrivent Action Team grant? We have Thrivent members in the congregation willing to assist you. Contact the church office and someone will be in touch...Marilyn Gross

On the Way ... Lutherans and Catholics in Dialogue October 15, 2017

4:00 p.m.— Educational Event at St. Mary's Catholic Church,

412 10th St., Moline, IL.

5:15 p.m.—Processional from St. Mary's to First Lutheran

Church, 1230 5th Ave., Moline, IL.

5:45 p.m.—Combined worship service at First Lutheran.

6:15 p.m.—Light supper to follow.

(Parking available at either church.)

Featured celebrants will include:

Father Michael R. Schaab

Former pastor of St. Pius X Catholic Church, Rock Island, and instructor at St. Ambrose University, Davenport.

The Rev. Lowell G. Almen

Former secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

On Saturday, October 14, members of the Lutheran and Catholic Churches are being invited to come together for a joint service project with Habitat for Humanity homes in the area. Please plan to attend these historic events for the churches of Moline. Additional details will be available in the next few weeks.

CHURCH WOMEN UNITED

Program: Childhood Education



On Friday, September 29, 2017, Church Women United will hold their Fall Fellowship at Christ United Methodist Church, 3801 7th Street, East Moline, IL. Registration is at 9:00 am, Brunch at 9:30 am, Program at 10:15 am.

The program will be on Childhood Education; speakers are Jan Johnson, Karyn Robertson and Cindy Winckler.

Brunch reservations and payment (\$7.00) is due to Margaret Baumann (309)236-7958 by Sunday, September 24. Attendees are encouraged to bring school supplies to be distributed to neighborhood schools.