



Calvary Courier

December 2017

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor

Upon our arrival at my first call, the congregations presented Mary and me with a housewarming gift. They had collected a large basket full of canned goods to fill our pantry. However, just to make life a little more interesting, they had removed the labels from all the cans. We had no idea what was inside any particular can.

So, as we prepared dinner we would choose a can from the shelf, making some assumptions about what might be inside based on the size and shape of the can. I will tell you, we had some pretty interesting meals. Along with our grilled cheese sandwiches we had a side of sauerkraut (which is right up there with lutefisk for me). Our vegetable some nights turned out to be chicken noodle soup or canned pears.

Now, if we were to receive a gift like that today, we would probably discreetly dispose of the things we didn't want. But being just out of seminary with barely two nickels to rub together, we could not afford to waste any of those canned goods. As a result, I had my first experience with creamed spinach, ate more peas than I had in the rest of my life, and sampled a handful of other foods that I never thought I would. If those cans had been labeled I would have never tried some things and discovered that they were OK (like that I wouldn't die from eating pickled beets).

Labels, it turns out, aren't always helpful and sometimes can keep us from experiencing things that are good or good for us.

The same can be said for labels that we apply to people. We live in a culture that is quick to label people. People are seen as conservative or liberal, Democrat or Republican, rich or poor, Christian or Muslim, black or white, Protestant or Catholic, Swedish or Norwegian. The list of labels is endless.

Unfortunately, labeling someone often prevents us

from seeing that person as more than their label. It can keep us from experiencing someone for who they really are or keep us from getting to know that person entirely. Labels, I'm afraid, become things that divide us at a time when we sorely need to be united.

Perhaps there is really only one label to which we need to pay attention. And that is the label, "Child of God." As Christians we recognize that everything and everyone is created by God, and that what God creates is good and is loved by God. What makes us different are those gifts that God has bestowed on us. To use Paul's words, we are all members of the body of Christ.

Paul writes to the Galatian church,

“²⁸There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.”

How different would the world be today if the first thing we recognized about a person was not their political leanings or their religious views or any other label we might choose, but that they are a beloved creation of God? Perhaps I'm being naive, but I think it would make all the difference in the world.

In Christ, *Pastor Knowles*

CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Please join us on **Christmas Eve**. Our regular worship service will be at 10:30 a.m. Then come back for our Sunset Service at 4:00 p.m., as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

- 5 – Andrew Levesque,
Mary Green
- 9 – Dawn Levesque
- 10 – Charlene Lundstrom
- 13 – Karen Thorsvold
- 20 – Theodore Peterson
- 23 – Ian Mudd
- 25 – Sidney Mudd
- 28 – Bryan Behrens
- 29 – Jacki Dooley
- 30 – Joan Winter, Kim Smith



Happy Anniversary to:

- 7 – Megan & Michael
Necessary (2009)
- 31 – Stanley & Minita Heed (1946)



During the month of November we received the following words of thanks....

* Dear Friends, Thank you for the cards, phone calls, visits and gifts. It helped me so much during this sad time.

---- Sincerely, Gisele Richardson

* Thank you and the faithful giving members of Calvary Lutheran Church for your continued support of God's work here at LOMC.

---- In His love, Russ Senti, Executive Dir.

Christmas Cards to Shut-ins



If you are sending Christmas Cards, please keep our shut-ins in mind:

AT HOME

Lorraine Beckingham
155 N Eagle Street #103
Oshkosh, WI 54902

Jeanette Peters
2354 29th St
Moline, IL 61265

Kathryn Beardsley
Colona House – Apt 907
54 41st Ave
East Moline, IL 61244

Eulalia Dunn – Apt 101
Jersey Ridge Place
5605 Jersey Ridge Rd
Davenport, IA 52807

Dorothy Hultgren
Avonlea Cottage #35
2021 1st St East
Milan, IL 61264

Gisele Richardson
Paulson Manor - #141
2424 41st St
Moline, IL 61265

Gerda Scheltzer - # 203
The Fountains Living Senior Center
3752 Thunder Ridge Rd
Bettendorf, IA 52722

NURSING FACILITY

Ardeth Lindell
Pauline Licko #3225/2
Elaine Newberg #3107/2
HOPE CREEK
4343 Kennedy Dr.
East Moline, IL 61244

Stan &
Minita Heed
Rosalie Mellgren
HILLCREST HOME
14688 Illinois 82E
Geneseo, IL 61254

Roy Woitte
APERION
430 30th Ave
East Moline, IL 61244



POTLUCK DINNER – for Arla Olson Wednesday, November 29 at 5:30 pm

Come say good-bye to Arla Olson with a Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m. in the Upper Room as we wish her – God's Speed. Please bring a dish to pass and everyone is welcome.

DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS

COME JOIN US on Friday, December 1 at 6:00 pm for pizza. After eating our fill, we will **DECK THE HALLS**, the sanctuary, the Upper Room and Erlander Hall for the Christmas Season. More people makes the task go faster.



JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

is **December 14th** for distribution on December 21. Please have your articles to me as soon as you can, as this will be a short month. You may email or put your articles in my box.

GOD'S GLOBAL BARNYARD



The Service Committee is once again collecting for God's Barnyard.

This year, there will be ornaments on the back table along with envelopes. We are collecting for the following: \$30 – Pig, \$20 – Honey Bees and \$20 – Chicks. If you would like to donate, please fill out an envelope. You may place it in the offering plate. Once you have purchased your animals, please fill out the back of the ornament(s) and place on the tree.

UPCOMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS



The RiverBend Handbell Ensemble presents:

“Ringing in the Season”

On Sunday, November 26, 2017 at 4:00 pm The RiverBend Handbell Ensemble will perform at St. John’s United Methodist Church, 109 E 14th Street, Davenport, IA. Familiar Christmas Selections include Once in Royal David’s City, Christmas Carol Fest, Ding Dong Merrily on High, and more! Please join us for a fun concert that is sure to get you in the holiday spirit.

CAFÉ

December 2nd at 9:30 a.m.

Moline Public Library Café, 3210 41st Street, Moline, IL



Please join us for a cup of coffee, tea, and maybe a pastry, as we gather for Bible Study and discussion on a Podcast from the ELCA website. All women of St. James Lutheran and Calvary Lutheran Churches are welcome.

Cambridge Swedish (chocolate) Bake Sale

Next Sunday, December 3rd from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, Cambridge Lutheran Church, in Cambridge, IL will hold a Swedish (chocolate) Bake Sale. A Barbeque Lunch for \$6 will also be served.



Christmas Caroling

All are **welcome** to come caroling on December 10 at 1:00 p.m. We will meet at church.



Christmas Potluck, Sunday, December 17th – after worship

EVERYONE IS INVITED to the All Church Christmas Potluck Dinner after church services on Sunday, **December 17th** 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 volunteers for set-up and clean-up.

LUNCH BUNCH

DECEMBER 19TH at 11:00 a.m. in the upper room. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us – always good food and good times.



WELCA -All Calvary women are invited.

Deborah Circle will meet on Tuesday, December 5, at 11:00 am for lunch at the QC Family Entertainment Center, 4401 44th Ave., Moline. Meet at church at 10:45 am if you wish to car pool. In place of exchanging Christmas gifts, the circle will again collect donations for the “brown bag” project for Christian Care Center – canned food, staples (non-food: laundry, cleaning and paper products.) Items can be brought to church at any time and placed in the room downstairs to the right of the kitchen.

HAPPY HOOKERS will meet on November 30 at 9:30 am to wrap up our gifts to the shut-ins. We will NOT meet in December. Stay home and have cookies.



Hats & Mittens for All – the Knit A Bit Group

This year, there will be No Mitten Tree, as we have been busy this year making scarves and hats. A few of us have even learned a few new stitches with Linda Nelson mastering the Cable stitch. Way to go, Linda! We will distribute them to various elementary schools and organizations.

Anytime you find hats, scarves, or gloves (no mittens) on sale or clearance, especially after the holidays and into the new year, you may bring them to church. We will be accepting donations throughout the year. If you have any questions, please see Pam Gross.

The Memorial Tree is a special tree where we remember our loved ones. Memorial Tree doves from last year are on the back table. You may re-hang your dove on the memorial tree. There are also new doves on the table by the Memorial Tree if you would like to remember someone. Please write their name on it and hang anywhere on the tree. May God bless you all this Christmas Season.



You can bring Christmas cards for regular attending members and put them in their mailbox. Please mail cards to shut-ins and those who go out of town for the winter or do not attend regularly, so they don’t sit in their mailboxes all year. Please put your return address on the envelope.



USHER-COUNTER SCHEDULE

December Schedule

As Christmas Eve falls on Sunday, I am scheduling for both services – 10:30 and 4:30. If you have been scheduled and will be out of town, or would like to volunteer, please let me know.

Openings in 2018 - We have an opening on our Usher and Counter Team, as Arla Olson is moving to Arizona. If you would like to be a Counter, please let me know in the office.

If you have been asked to sub as Usher and would like to be assigned to a team let me know. To those who are already serving as Usher, I will keep you on the same team unless you notify me. These additions/changes should be in the office no later than December 14th. The new schedules for Counter and Usher will be distributed in early January for the time period of February 2018 through January 2019.



As we come to the end of the year, I want to thank everyone for all the gifts given to Calvary throughout 2017. Remember that our gifts from God consist of our time, talents and possessions. Monetarily, Calvary has had a

good year; we have paid our bills and met our benevolences that we agreed upon at our annual meeting. We have been able to do other types of outreach through our Thrivent Action teams in working for God’s Kingdom. Can we do more? The answer is always yes! As 2017 comes to a close, count your blessings and make sure that you have done your share for the work at Calvary and beyond. Also, look ahead to 2018 and ask what God is seeking from you to further help in the ministry here at Calvary.

----- Pam Gross



Order your

Poinsettia

Deadline: December 10

Now \$10.00

**Make checks payable to:
Calvary Lutheran Church**

Please complete the appropriate information:

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by: _____

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

The **ANNUAL MEETING** will be held in Erlander Hall after worship on **Jan. 28**

