

Calvary Courier

February 2017

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. (I Corinthians 12:4-7)

As Paul wrote to the church at Corinth in First Corinthians, he was addressing a growing concern about disunity and divisiveness within the community. It seems that the people of the church had found ways to distinguish themselves from each other – often claiming that one group was superior to the other. In the 12th chapter Paul refuted the claims that some had a greater (more important) spiritual gift than another by arguing that all gifts are from the same Spirit and that all spiritual gifts are important for the good of the community.

As individuals and as a congregation it is easy to see distinctions of spiritual gifts and to rank them in importance. Often, I'm afraid, we fail to see our own gifts as important as someone else's. But that is not Paul's claim. While Paul may have been chastising those who claimed greater importance in Corinth, the message for us may very well be, "You, too, are gifted by the Spirit and your gift is important to the body of Christ."

Yes, we are a small congregation – averaging just 67 worshipers on a Sunday morning. And, yes, we may not have a thriving youth program or children's Sunday School. And, yes, we may have a relatively limited budget. But none of that means that we are not a vital, gifted member of God's church sharing our gifts for the common good.

In 2016 -

- We made a sizeable donation for backpacks for underprivileged children in a Romanian school.
- Lap robes, made by our Happy Hookers, are warming the legs and hearts of residents of our local nursing homes.
- Our Relay for Life team raised over \$4000 dollars toward finding a cure for cancer.
- We continue to include regular visitors in our worship.
- The Lunch Bunch continues to provide an important opportunity for fellowship on a monthly basis.
- Our collection buckets outside the Upper Room support a variety of important services in our community.
- Non-perishable food collected in the shopping cart in the Narthex is joyously received by local food pantries and Winnies Place.
- We provided meals for the hungry in Watertown, served meals for the needy at Café on Vine, and provided lunches for workers at local Habitat homes.

- Our benevolence dollars support ministries in the Quad Cities (Churches United, Christian Friendliness), throughout our Synod (Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center) and around the world through the work of the ELCA and its related agencies.
- We made significant donations to support the construction of a nursing school in Tanzania, to help offset crippling student loan debt for new pastors in our synod, to help fund a literacy program in India and to provide food through the River Bend Food Bank.
- We provided warm clothing for homeless veterans in our area.
- We knitted and crocheted hats and scarves for local school children.
- We celebrate God’s love with our weekly worship.
- We shared a common midweek Lenten worship with the other Moline ELCA churches, including a “round-robin” for the pastors.
- In cooperation with the other ELCA churches in Moline we provided gifts of thanks to our local first responders.
- Support is given for our members and friends through our prayers, visits, funeral meals and other acts of kindness.
- We eat a lot of donuts as we share in each other’s joys and sorrows.
- And the list goes on....

And in 2017 we anticipate -

- Reestablishing the parish nurse program at Calvary to support the needs of many of our members.
- Cooperating with First Baptist to learn about and help fight human trafficking in our area.
- Packaging meals for the Kids Against Hunger program.
- Celebrating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation through joint programs with the Moline ELCA and Roman Catholic congregations.
- Continuing our many other vital ministries.

We are, indeed, a gifted congregation. God’s Spirit is alive and active among us as individuals and as a congregation. We are blessed to share those gifts of the Spirit for the benefit of our members, the community, and the world.

And each of us is an important part of that ministry. Thank you for the part you play in supporting the ministry of God’s congregation in this place.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles

ANNUAL MEETING
January 29 after worship



The Annual Meeting is this Sunday, January 29 after worship in Erlander Hall. If you have taken an annual report, please be sure to bring it. There will be reports available for the meeting.

After the meeting, reports will be available in the church office.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 – Judy Carbiener
- 2 – Rick Ohrn
- 6 – Connie Jensen
- 7 – Renee Ketelsen
- 8 – Megan Necessary
- 9 – Beth Fuller
- 10 – Kendall Knowles
- 15 – Elaine Foster
- 16 – Henry Stromberg
- 17 – Dorothy Harmening
- 20 – Linda Johansen
- 21 – Lisa Dicks, Logan Gross, Sue Knipe
- 22 – Carol Mayo



Happy Anniversary to:

- 29 – Norm & Gerda Schmeltzer (1948)



WELCA - All Calvary women are invited.

- ❄️ **Deborah Circle** – will meet on Tuesday, February 7 in the Upper Room.

Hostess: Marilyn Gross

- ❄️ **HAPPY HOOKERS** - will meet on February 22nd in Erlander Hall.

- ❄️ **WOMEN OF CALVARY** - all women of Calvary are invited to gather after services on Sunday, Feb. 5 at the rear of the Upper Room. Topics for consideration are:

1. New vinyl flooring for the kitchen/hallway/Erlander Hall and Upper Room;
2. Lenten Lunches;
3. Basement Sale;
4. All-Daughter Banquet.

Ladies, your opinion/participation is needed and important....please feel free to discuss these topics with the WELCA leaders: President: Sue Knipe; Vice Pres., Marilyn Gross; Secretary: Sharon Hough; Treasurer: Connie Langston.



SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!

February 5, 2016

On Sunday, February 5, we will be collecting loose change in our Soup Pots for Souper Bowl of Caring after worship.

We offer our sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Harold Clark. Harold passed away on January 21. Services were held at Van Hoe Funeral Home. May each of you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ.



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

♥ Dear Friends, I want to thank you for the greeting cards I received. The gift of the Happy Hookers ladies, the special carolers and the visits. You made my Christmas very dear to my heart. God Bless you.

---- Sincerely, Gisele Richardson

♥ Received the very nice carrying bag you sent me for Christmas. Such a pretty pattern. Will come in handy. Thank you. Hope all of you had a Special Christmas and can look for all the best in 2017. Good Health & Happiness!

---- With Love, Gerda Schmeltzer

♥ To Happy Hookers, Thank you very much for the Panda and beautiful crocheted bag.

---- Love to all, Henry

• Dear Friends, Thank you so much for the great donation of “food”. Our clients are always happy to be able to have great meals. God Bless you!

----the Staff At Winne’s Place

• Thank you for your contribution of \$80 to E. Moline/Moline CareLINK. With your contribution we will be able to continue our mission of serving the community. Thanks again for your contribution.

---- Blessings, Anne Wachal, Exec. Dir.

• Dear Church, We would like to thank you for your donation to the mission. Your kindness is appreciated. May God continue to bless you.

---- Christian Care residents & Staff



LUNCH BUNCH

Valentine Party
February 14th

The February lunch bunch will be held on second Tuesday, February 14th and will be a Valentine theme so #1 – let's wear "red." #2 – come hungry for a great meal. #3 – Have a good time of fellowship, laughter and entertainment. Steve and Debbie Faith will present the program on their Alaska trip showing their beautiful pictures and telling of their adventures. Bring your friends, too – we'll make them welcome!

Note: Lenten Lunches will take the place of Lunch Bunch for the months of March and April. March 1st is Ash Wednesday (no lunch). Lenten lunches will begin on Wednesday, March 8 for five weeks, ending Wednesday, April 5th.

HAPPY HOOKERS



I think we need a bus to take all the Happy Hooker gals around to deliver their gifts. I wish we all could see the happy faces they give as thank you for remembering me. Your gifts make our shut-ins and the nursing home patients feel very special. Well until we get that bus, we want to thank all who helped distribute all the done bundles.

This year we took lap blankets to Illini Restorative Care Center. The staff was so appreciative of our gifts and besides loved our name. Many staff groups were called to see what we brought. We gave 48 lap robes to their patients. To be sure we kept working and remembered Illini, we were given several bags of yarn given to them. We told staff that we would be back. Thanks again for all your help. Come join us on the last Wednesday of the month at 9:30. Give a call if the weather is questionable.

Love & Hugs, Marilyn Mudd



CHURCH CLEANING



We are still doing church cleaning to help out with our budget. We meet at 9:40 am on Thursday in the kitchen for a cup of coffee and treat. We then work for One hour and then return to kitchen to finish off the coffee. **NO OVERTIME HERE!** Surprising what we can do in one hour, but we aren't getting any younger, so would love to see some new blood join us. No special skills required.

Thank you - Jon Henriksen for doing the sanctuary for us. Thanks go to Dale & Joan Winter, Pam Ohrn, Sandy Ohrn, Greg Johnson, Carol Mayo, Marilyn & Jack Gross and me.

We can't all be there every time so we sure could use some extra help. Even once a month is good.

Love & Hugs, Marilyn Mudd

Feed the Hungry Team Meal Site – Mt. Zion, East Moline



The good news is that with the help of Thrivent grants, I have been able to supplement the monetary donations received to cover the cost of food. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please indicate on the envelope it is for Feed the Hungry.

We serve the first Wednesday of every other month at Mt. Zion in East Moline. If you would like to help, please talk to Carol Mayo.

Thank you. Carol Mayo

THRIVENT FINANCIAL

Thrivent Action Team Grants...

Do you have a community project you would like to sponsor??? Just give one of the Thrivent Advocates (Dawn Levesque or Marilyn Gross) the information on what you would like to do, and we can help you verify the project and find a Thrivent member willing to apply for a \$250 Action Team Grant.



Choice Dollars... Thrivent members eligible for this program have until March 31st to direct their allocations for 2016. Check your status on-line at www.thrivent.com or call Thrivent at 800-847-4836.

SERVANT HEARTS SCHEDULE

On the bottom right corner of the Servant Hearts Schedule is a box showing sign-ups for next month's Coffee Hour. We are looking for volunteers to take a Sunday. This would entail making coffee and clean up afterwards. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by the Upper Room. Thank you.

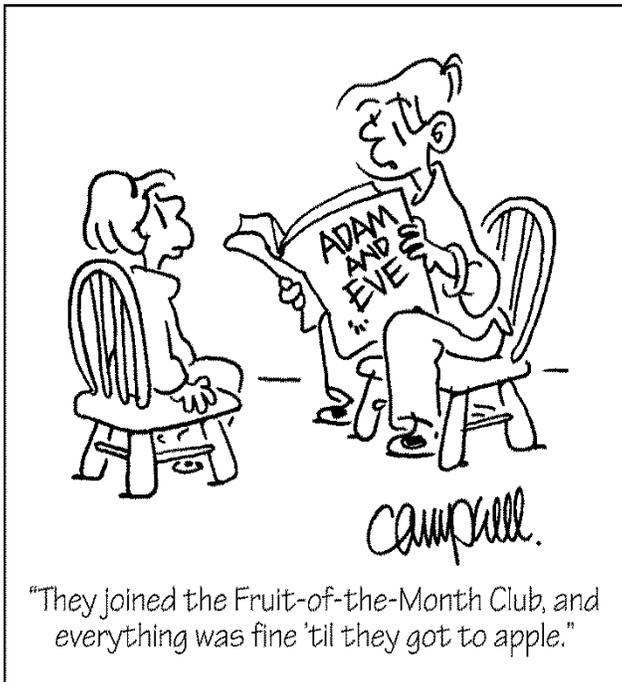
RELAY FOR LIFE



The Calvary Crusaders held their organizational meeting on Sunday, January 15 with six members making plans during Coffee Hour. They will sponsor the 4th Sunday coffee hours each month. Other ideas included doing a taco lunch and ice cream social. More information will be published in upcoming newsletters/bulletins.

The Relay for Life Quad Cities will be held at Bettendorf High School on Saturday, May 13 and combines Rock Island County and Scott County. Even though relay is early, we will have additional time to raise funds through August 31st. Thank you again for all the support you have given us in the past, and looking forward to your support for another fun-filled year... Marilyn Gross & The Calvary Crusaders.

Relay for Life Quad Cities is sponsoring a Mallards vs. Kalamazoo Hockey game on Friday, February 10th at 7:05 p.m. Three dollars from each ticket sold will be donated to Relay for Life. Tickets can be purchased through the Mallards Front Office or by contacting Jane Hill at 309-269-8613.



FILL THE BAG March 12

Remember when Calvary "filled the bag" for Kids Against Hunger and all the *fun and laughter* we enjoyed? On March 12, Calvary will once again join forces with this humanitarian organization to purchase and package meals to combat hunger. If you would like to donate and/or help, please fill out the form below and return along with your donation.

Kids Against Hunger



Each day, thousands of children around the world go hungry. What if it took just one quarter — 25 cents — to provide a lifesaving meal to a starving youngster? Kids Against Hunger can use your small change to make a BIG change for struggling children in foreign lands—and here at home. Calvary will be joining forces with this humanitarian organization to purchase and package meals to combat hunger. How can you help? By filling out the pledge card below and joining us on Sunday, March 12 as we package nutrient-rich meals for distribution both locally and abroad. We will gather for a light lunch, then put on our caps and get to work. If we get a good crew, it shouldn't take more than an hour.

What will your
quarters buy?

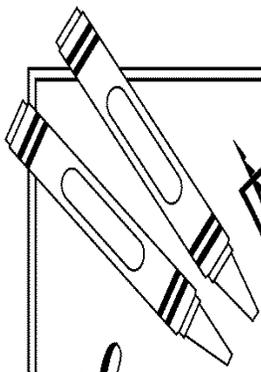


\$10.00 = 40 meals
\$25.00 = 100 meals
\$40.00 = 160 meals

Blessed that I will not go hungry today when so many others will, I pledge:

- To donate _____ to provide meals for those in need.
- To be God's hands by helping to assemble meals on March 12.

Name _____



PUZZLE

Love your neighbor as yourself

Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to live out God's love. How does Jesus say we should treat other people?

Directions: Find a hidden word in each sentence. For example, "the" is hidden here: (12) "It's Harry's hat he stole." The (12) means the hidden word starts on the 12th letter (ignore punctuation). Use the answers to complete Matthew 19:19, NIV.

(1) You really like ice cream! _____



(16) Carly has a really fat hermit crab. _____

(21) My favorite animals are moth, ermine and eels. _____

(4) "Hello, Vera!" called Joseph. _____

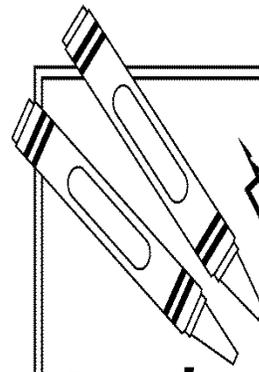
(11) When horses neigh, boredom reigns. _____

(17) Their daughter, Kara, sat patiently. _____

(6) "That's yours, elf!" the fairy yelled. _____

 "Honor _____ and _____, and _____ your _____."

Matthew 19:19, NIV



PUZZLE

Light OF THE World

In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way? Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels. Then read the completed Bible verse.

KEY:



" _____ M TH _____ L _____ GHT _____ F

TH _____ W _____ RLD. W H _____ V _____ R

F _____ LL _____ WS M _____ W _____ LL N _____ V _____ R

W _____ LK _____ N D _____ RKN _____ SS."

J _____ H N 8:12, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 19:19, NIV

Answer: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." John 8:12, NIV

