



Calvary Courier

February 2016

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor

I had the opportunity, while covering for a vacationing pastor, to lead a Sunday afternoon worship service at one of the local nursing homes this past summer. There were, as I recall, five residents that attended the service. So, instead of standing behind the provided lectern to lead the liturgy, I pulled up a chair and sat with the assembled worshipers.

Now, I have been a part of nursing home worship services where the proclamation is much more eulogy than prophecy. The preacher spoke of God's love and the presumed faithfulness of the worshipers. The intent was to offer comfort. The implication, I'm afraid, was that the old people gathered there had outlived their usefulness and now they were to just bide their time until God called them home.

That has never been my style with nursing home worship, however. Even though the group was small (and in at least one case unable to respond), I didn't abbreviate what I had planned for the worship. Nor did I alter the message I intended to preach. The people who had gathered in that room, though frail and with physical limitations, were still the gathered people of God. And so I proclaimed the good news of God's love for them and challenged them to share that love with others. These Christians gathered for worship may have been limited in their mission field and in the things they might be able to do, but that does not mean they are no longer useful to God in carrying out the mission of the church. They may be residents of a nursing home, but they can still share their stories of God's love in their lives, they can still do acts of kindness to one another, and they can still pray for others. (I recall visiting one of our 90 year-old members in a nursing home who told me she still ministered by going down the hall to visit some of the "old people.")

My point- being old and having limited resources does not mean that one has no part in the mission of God and should just sit back and wait to die.

There are those over the last several years who have pointed at Calvary Lutheran Church and likened us to a feeble nursing home resident. The implication is that we have had a good life, we were faithful disciples, and now there is nothing more for us to do but wait to die. I believe they are wrong!

Certainly our demographics have changed. We don't have Sunday School rooms filled with children. We don't have high school youth having pizza parties on Saturday evenings. And our young adult group now consists mainly of retirees.

But that does not mean that we are not a vital Christian assembly doing significant ministry in and through our congregation. We remain the people of God growing in faith and faithfully serving God in this place at this time.

Consider this:

- This summer we again made a sizeable donation of shoes and clothing for the children in a Romanian orphanage.
- 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 ranked #2 in the county and raised over \$6000 dollars toward finding a cure for cancer.
- We welcomed new members and 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.
- Our benevolence dollars support ministries in the Quad Cities (ILLOWA, 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 support a missionary in Jerusalem and Jordan.
- We raised the funds and packaged over 3000 meals in support of Kids Against Hunger.
- 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.
- 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....

We are and continue to be alive in Christ. God calls us to serve in the name of Christ. We may be a congregation that is full of gray hair (for those that still have hair). We may be a congregation whose joints creak and backs ache. We may be a congregation that isn’t as mobile as we may have once been. But we are still a congregation with the heart of Christ beating within us. We are still a congregation with a mission. We are still useful to God.

In Christ,
Pastor Knowles



Mid-Week Lenten
SCHEDULE

Lent Begins February 10 with:
Ash Wednesday Services
 12 noon and 6:30 p.m.

Each week we will have a visiting Pastor from other Moline Lutheran churches preaching at our services.

Beginning **February 17** through **March 17**
 Services will be:

Weekly Wednesday Services:
11:00 am Lenten Lunch
12 noon Lenten Service
6:30 pm Lenten Service
7:00 pm Choir Practice



ANNUAL MEETING –
JANUARY 31ST

The Annual Report is available for pick up after worship and is located on the back table in the Narthex. Please be sure and bring your report to the Annual Meeting on January 31st.

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

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

- p1 – 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
- 18 – Dorothy Mason
- 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 2 in the Upper Room.
Hostess: Karen Thorsvold
- * **Rachel Circle** - will meet will on February 2 at 7:00 pm.
- * **Unit Meeting** - will not meet until March.
- * **HAPPY HOOKERS** - will meet on February 24th in Erlander Hall.

Lunch Bunch - Tuesday, January 26th.

The “marvelous” Monica Quinn will be entertaining with her take on the “50s” with music and jokes. Don’t miss it!



There will be **no lunch bunch gatherings** in February or March. Calvary WELCA will be hosting the weekly Wednesday Lenten Lunches at 11:00 a.m. with services following at 12:00 noon.

SAVE THE DATE - CONGREGATIONAL VALENTINE'S PARTY – FEBRUARY 13!



We will be having a Congregational Valentine Party in the Hy-Vee Party Room, 7th Street and John Deere Road, Moline, IL. Please see [page 4](#) for more details.



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

♥ Dear Calvary Friends – Thanks to all for cards and phone calls – wishing us well for this coming year. Very much appreciated was the caroling by the choir at my front door and their delivery of the beautiful crocheted lap robe provided by the “hookers”. Lastly – thank you to Pastor Knowles for his visit and communion – it was deeply felt and heart-warming.

---- Love, Prayers to all, Jeanette Peters

♥ I would like to thank the carolers for stopping by and singing for me and for delivering the crocheted basket stuffed with “goodies” and an animal. Each year I am amazed at the interesting gifts from the “Happy Hookers”. I would also like to thank Pastor Knowles for his visits throughout the past year.

----Thank you, Joan Freese

♥ First off a special thank you to Dave and Annette Menke, Stan Heed and Betty Clark for their monetary gifts to the Happy Hooker fund. God Bless You.

Thank you to the carolers who are so helpful in helping the Happy Hookers get there special holiday gifts delivered to our shut-ins. Thank you to Dale and Joan, for delivering all our special items to the Christian Care Center. Thank you to Pam Ohrn for helping deliver lap robes to Hope Creek Nursing Home. This year we had the assistance of a staff person at the home to let us know who the new patients were. This was helpful in our sharing. Patients and their families were so pleased with the lap robes. Thank you to all the Happy Hookers who helped make these gifts possible.

---- Love and Hugs from Marilyn Mudd

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING! February 7, 2016



On Sunday, February 7, 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 Hal Markuson. Hal passed away on January 2 in Florida. Services are tentatively set for March 21 at 10:30 a.m. at Rock Island National Cemetery. There will be a luncheon following at Calvary. May each of you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Befriender Training Opportunity Unity Point Health Trinity

Befriender training is offered once per year for those who are interested. This is a program for those in the community who feel called to do visitation with patients in the hospital. Classes are for 12 weeks and begin February 16, 2016. Contact the Pastoral Care Office (309-799-2989 or 309-799-2991 if you are interested. Class size is limited. Flyer is on the bulletin board in the Upper Hallway.



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

Please help support the Feed the Hungry team by bringing bags of fresh fruit the Sunday before we serve to be left in the kitchen – to take to the meal site the following Wednesday. There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in the upper hall. When signing up, please indicate the number of bags you will be bringing. This will aid us in our planning of the meal.

If you would like to help with cooking or serving, please see Carol Mayo or Ted Jackson. We are always looking for volunteers. We serve the first Wednesday of every other month at Mt. Zion in East Moline.

We are also looking for monetary donations to help get us through this year. If you would like to donate, please indicate on the envelope it is for Feed the Hungry.

Thank you. Carol Mayo & Ted Jackson

Thrivent Action Team – would like to thank those who either knitted/crocheted or bought hats, scarves and gloves for our Mitten Tree in December. We were able to put together 72 sets of scarfs, hats and gloves to give to Jefferson School and to YOUTHOPe in Moline.



RELAY FOR LIFE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The Relay for Life “Calvary Crusaders” will have a lunch/planning meeting on Sunday, January 24th at 12:00 noon. Everyone is invited to join us over pizza and dessert and bring their ideas for the coming year.



SATURDAY, FEB. 13TH

**HY-VEE PARTY ROOM
JOHN DEERE RD. & 7TH STREET**

SOCIAL HOUR 5:30 p.m.

DINNER SERVED 6:00 p.m.

EVERYONE INVITED

COST: \$15.00

We will have a three meat buffet:

Roast Beef, Chicken and Salmon

**MAKE RESERVATIONS
WITH
ANNETTE MENKE
OR MARILYN GROSS**

BY WEDNESDAY, FEB. 10TH