



# *Calvary Courier*

## *March 2016*

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor

Not too long ago I was waiting in the lobby of a clinic where I had taken my mother-in-law for her macular degeneration check-up, actively engaging in one of my favorite pastimes – people watching.

As I sat subconsciously gazing at the people walking in and out of the clinic my attention was drawn to a young mother and her son (maybe three years old) heading toward the automatic sliding doors to exit the building. The mother was crossing the lobby, reaching down with her right hand asking for the child to hold on to it. The three year-old, however, stubbornly refused, insisting that he as just fine walking on his own. Several times the mother thrust her hand down, calling the child's name and telling him to take her hand. But each gesture was met with indifference.

Now, I have no doubt that the mother wanted the hand of her son in order to make sure he was safe. The doors would automatically open for him and the other side of the door was the dangerous world...a parking lot full of moving vehicles and potentially distracted drivers who were anxiously anticipating a doctor's visit or looking for the person they had come to pick-up. Parking lots are not safe places for three year-olds.

However her son, likely oblivious to the dangers of the parking lot, was going to assert his independence and head out the door without any assistance from his mother. I could just imagine him saying, "Mom, I know what I'm doing. I can do it myself."

And so I watched to see who would win this battle of wills – mother or son. As the first door slid open mom did something I had not expected. Instead of asserting her will, she simply slid her hand over a little more to the right and took a firm hold of the hood on her son's jacket. The three year-old might have thought he was heading in the world on his own, but mom was still going to maintain her authority and her ability to protect her child.

I chuckled to myself as the pair headed to their car. Their interaction was so much like encounters I had with my children, and like my parents had with me. Then I stopped chuckling and thought to myself, "I wonder if this is the same way God interacts with us?"

The "old Adam" in us is so much like the three year-old. We hold fast to our independence as we strut toward a dangerous world. God is continuously stretching out his hand, wanting to lead us and keep us safe, calling to us to take his hand. But we humans are a stubborn breed. "No God," we cry, "I can do this on my own. I don't need your help," and boldly march out the door. We can take care of ourselves!

And God allows us some of that freedom. But at the same time I believe God will not relinquish all control. While God may not grab our hand, he will keep a firm grasp on the hood of our coats. God will not let us run out into the dangerous world on our own. He will always be close by, with one hand on us, to guide us and steer us away from harm. That is, after all, what a loving parent does for his strong-willed children.

In Christ,  
**Pastor Knowles**

**MARCH BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES**

**Happy Birthday to:**

- 1 – Gisele Richardson
- 2 – Peter Doering
- 9 – Betty Clark
- 13 – Linda Chase
- 15 – Margo Miller
- 16 – Fran Pearson
- 17 – Ted Jackson
- 18 – Steve Faith, Dorothy Hultgren  
– Cindy Pham
- 25 – Pam Gross
- 27 – Laura Knipe
- 30 – Rosalie Mellgren
- 31 – Betty Ellis, JoAnn Sullivan



**Happy Anniversary to:**

- 6 – Jack & Marilyn Gross (1954)  
– Bob & Charlene Lundstrom (1976)
- 19 – Dianna & Terry Kitchen (1983)  
– Mike & Alisha Jones (2005)



**On Saturday, March 12,** Be sure and Change Your Clocks **AHEAD** one (1) hour before going to bed.

**PALM SUNDAY BRUNCH**

**Sunday, March 20th**

Everyone is invited!!!!



The Calvary Crusaders Relay Team will serve a “Palm Sunday Brunch” on Sunday, March 20 in Erlander Hall after worship. The menu will include a variety of egg dishes, fruit, assorted pastries, juice and coffee..

If you would like to bring a donation of coffeecake, rolls, or breads, please bring them early that morning. All donations would be greatly appreciated.

Your donations at these events will benefit the American Cancer Society’s R.I. County Relay for Life.

**Mid-Week Lenten SCHEDULE**



**Mid-Week Services continue each Wednesday through March 16:**

**“Baptismal Promises”**

- 11:00 am Lenten Lunch**
- 12 noon Lenten Service**
- 6:30 pm Lenten Service**
- 7:00 pm Choir Practice**

**Men’s Lenten Breakfast & Worship –**

**“Tree of Life”**



Trinity Lutheran, Moline continues to host a Men’s Lenten Breakfast on Saturday Mornings in Founders Hall at 8:00 a.m. with devotions at 8:30 a.m. (March 5, 12, 19). The coffee is ready at 7:30 so come early. Enjoy a 5 star breakfast and then enter the Chapel for a half-hour devotional service; always a special and inspiring time.

**SCHEDULE FOR HOLY WEEK**



**Note:** We will only be having one (1) worship service on Easter at 10:00 am

- March 20 – 10:00 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship**  
\***Palm Sunday Brunch** after Worship
- March 24 – 6:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship**
- March 25 – 6:30 p.m. Good Friday Worship**
- March 27 – 10:00 am – Easter Worship**

\*Relay for Life will sponsor the Palm Sunday Brunch



**PLEASE SAVE YOUR CANCELLED STAMPS!** More information will be in future newsletters and bulletins.



We offer our sympathies and prayers to Linda Johansen and family on the passing of her mother on February 12<sup>th</sup>. We also offer our sympathies and prayers to Dorothy Harmening, family and friends. Dorothy's husband, Don passed away on Wednesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>. Funeral services were held on Saturday, February 20 at Calvary. May each of you find comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ.



**WELCA - MEETING ON TUESDAY, MARCH 1:**  
All Calvary women are invited.

- ❖ **Deborah Circle** – will meet at 9:00 am in the Upper Room. Hostess is Ann Donahue.
- ❖ **Rachel Circle** will meet at 7:00 pm in the Upper Room. Hostess is Henry Stromberg.
- ❖ **Unit Meeting** will be on March 15 at 7:00 p.m. Program: Rachel Circle; Hostess: Deborah Circle
- ❖ **HAPPY HOOKERS** will meet on March 30 at 9:30 am depending on the weather

**LENTEN LUNCH SCHEDULE:**

March 2 – Deborah Circle  
March 9 – Rachel Circle  
March 16 – Deborah Circle

The next week is Holy Week – no lunch is served.



**HELP SUPPORT –  
Feed the Hungry Team  
Meal Site – Mt. Zion, East Moline  
We serve again on April 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Even though we did not serve a lot of people on February 3, those who were there enjoyed the fresh fruit. Thank you to everyone who brought fruit and made brownies. We serve again on April 6<sup>th</sup>. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board, outside the Upper Room. We are still looking for volunteers to help with cooking and serving.

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



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

♥ Dear Ladies, Thank you so very much for the lovely white cover blanket/shawl. It is so beautiful and I will think of you often. It was made with such card and it is greatly appreciated.

---- fondly, Evelyn York, Hope Creek Care Ctr.

♥ Norman and I both say “Thank You” for the beautiful lap robe. Your basket with all the special treats was so nice and unexpected. Norm found the cheese crackers right away. Whenever I use the pretty basket will think of all of you. Hope all of you had a blessed Christmas & wish you a very happy New Year, 2016

----Norm & Gerda Schmeltzer

• Thank you for your kind donation to Pregnancy Resources. Your generosity will enable our clients to choose life for their babies. We are sincerely grateful for the 2 bags of toys and are blessed by your thoughtfulness. Thank you again.

---- Moline Pregnancy Resources

**During the month of February we received the following word of thanks.....**

♥ Thank you for your prayers and interest about our nephew Mike. He has completed his procedures and is on maintenance chemo for two (2) months. A lighter side to his cancer is he was interviewed and the article is the internet: [www.nbcwashington.com/news](http://www.nbcwashington.com/news). Our church family is such a blessing with their concerns and prayers. Thank you again.

----Annette and Dave Menke

• Thank you all so much for the many donations this year to Jefferson Early Childhood Center. The glue sticks, school supplies, backpacks, sweat pants, underwear, hats, gloves/mittens, and scarves are being used by our friends. We greatly appreciate the help you have not only given to us but our students.

---- Jefferson early Childhood Center



**Souper Bowl of Caring** – thank you to everyone who contributed on Sunday, February 7 with your loose change. We raised \$137.62 for helping the food ministry at Churches United.

**Calvary Basement Sale–  
SAVE the DATES!**

Friday and Saturday – April 15 and 16<sup>th</sup>. Please start cleaning out your closets, garage and basements! Bring the items to church and deposit them in the Men’s Prayer Room, downstairs. We also will need Drivers and Volunteers. If you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please contact Sharon Hough at (309) 755-8620 or email: [shough@mchsi.com](mailto:shough@mchsi.com).



**Order your Easter Lilies from Calvary!**



**DEADLINE FOR ORDERING  
Is Tuesday, March 8th**

Please complete this form.

Return it to the Church Office  
or place in the offering plate.

You may also email the office at  
[secretary@calvarymoline.org](mailto:secretary@calvarymoline.org).

**The cost of each plant is \$10.00.**

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

Please complete the appropriate information:

In Memory of:

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In Honor of:

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Given by:

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**Remember**, there is only **one (1)** service on Easter  
this year, at 10 am.

Please take your plant home following the Easter Service



**Relay for Life –  
Calvary Crusaders:**

On the 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of each month, the Calvary Crusaders will host the Coffee hour. There will be special baked goods and treats.

Thanks to Jim Johansen (and his goats) for the goat cheese in February to benefit Relay for Life. Sales totaled \$60.00 – our January Coffee Hour netted \$67.00.

**THRIVENT FINANCIAL**

Eligible Thrivent members can help support our church and thousands of nonprofit organizations through the Thrivent Choice member-advised charitable grant program. Each year eligible Thrivent members are designated Choice Dollars based on their qualifying insurance premiums contract values and volunteer leadership. When they direct Choice Dollars, they recommend where Thrivent distributes a portion of its charitable funds. If you are eligible, you can help strengthen our church community by directing them to Calvary Lutheran. Thank you to those members who have helped support our church’s mission by directing Choice Dollars!!! Note: The last date to direct your 2015 Choice Dollars is March 31.

**THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS:** Is there a community service project you would like to promote? Ask a Thrivent member to sponsor an action team to receive a \$250 grant to make it a reality. For more information, contact Congregational Advocates Marilyn Gross or Dawn Levesque.

