



Calvary Courier

September 2016

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor

For my father's funeral last month we, as most families do now, put together a collage of photos of my dad and the family that surrounded him for his 95+ years. Among the photos was a picture of a very dapper young man with a pipe clenched between his teeth. Several people commented on what a handsome man he was. I hear similar comments at most every visitation I attend. There are photos from decades in the past of a very young couple on their wedding day, and someone invariably will comment wistfully, "Boy, we were so young and good looking then."

Obviously the people in the pictures were younger then, and perhaps in some way better looking. But I think it is a tragedy if we allow ourselves to be so awe-struck by the attractiveness of our past that we fail to see the beauty of our present. Just because our hair may have lost its color (or just be lost) and we have more wrinkles than we care to admit and our knees object to walking up stairs doesn't mean that we are no longer beautiful. I mean that sincerely and in your hearts you know that's right.

I think it is equally tragic for a congregation to fall into the same trap. How easy it is, I think, to look at the pictures hanging on the walls of Erlander Hall and fondly recall the days when there were hundreds of children in the Sunday School. And who among us wouldn't long to relive a Sunday like the one in 1926 when Pastor Bergren baptized 46 children in just one service. Or wouldn't it be wonderful to be 1987 again when the congregation dedicated a new, modern Sunday School wing to accommodate all the little children. Indeed we can look at pictures of large catechism classes, impressive choirs, and huge gatherings for the ice cream social in the parking lot and think how good we were back then.

But just because in our younger days we were overflowing with young families, big choirs, numerous women's circles, active men's groups, and filled pews that doesn't mean that we are no longer a beautiful, vital, growing congregation.

Consider this....In the last 6+ years there are more than 30 new faces in our pews, including both new members and folks who have returned to worship after an absence for whatever reason. While only 3 of these new folks are under 30, all of them are active participants in the life of the congregation. This year our average worship attendance is up slightly – which is more than many congregations can say. Also, because of careful spending we have held the line on expenses this year. At the same time our regular giving is up about 3%. And, while I don't think it is good to just look at numbers when assessing the health of a congregation, I am most pleased that our benevolence contributions have grown significantly. We are being faithful stewards of God's gifts to us.

Our beauty in our old age is seen beyond the numbers, too. We are helping to feed the hungry at Café on Vine and at the Churches United meal site in East Moline. With donations of food from our members we just made a significant contribution to two local food pantries. We provide support for workers at Habitat for Humanity build sites. We share the warmth of lap robes and quilts with residents of local nursing homes. We comfort the grieving and visit the sick. We help clothe the homeless (especially homeless veterans this past year) and knitted hats and scarves to warm local school children. We make regular donations to several local food pantries and to Winnie's Place (a domestic violence shelter for women). And through our synod mission support we provide aid to people who are affected by natural disasters, support missionaries who proclaim the gospel throughout the world, and lobby for justice in our state, nation and around the world.

No, we may not look like we did 30, 40 or 90 years ago. But I invite you to take a look in the mirror now and see, despite the obvious wrinkles, what a beautiful, living and growing ministry of God's church we truly are today. Thank you for all you do for our work together as Calvary Lutheran Church.

In Christ,
Pastor Knowles

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



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

Happy Birthday to:



- 1 – Kenneth Jones
- 2 – Fran Freeze
- 3 – John Henriksen
- 4 – Dave Griebel
- 5 – Debbie Faith
- 7 – Doris Henriksen, Linda Nelson
- 8 – Ruth Laabs-Wilcox
- 11 – Mark Jackson
- 17 – Gary Gross, Rev. Bob Pearson
- 19 – Mary Knowles
- 20 – Randy Bowser
- 23 – Ronny Woitte
- 26 – Lisa Blair, Jeanette Peters
- 27 – Christine Mellgren
- 28 – David Menke

Happy Anniversary to:



- 14 – Steve & Debbie Faith (1974)
– Kirk & Renee Ketelsen (1991)
- 17 – Paul & Dawn Levesque (1988)
- 20 – Kurt & Lisa Dicks (1986)
- 25 – Carroll & Elaine Foster (1993)
– David & Annette Menke (1960)



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14!
A **NEW** DAY for Lunch Bunch! We will still meet at 11:00 a.m., but hopefully this change will spread out our activities and will make it possible for all to easily attend without conflicts. Invite your friends for a delicious meal and fellowship.

Remember, we have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. We could really use some help in the “cleaning” department. All it takes is a spare hour or two and you can do it any day of the week!



CONGRATULATIONS to Andrew Levesque for being named to the spring dean’s list at University of Northern Iowa for earning a grade point of 3.5 or higher.

♥ Thank you to our Calvary family for all your kind expressions of sympathy, the cards, and the gifts in memory of my father. Your support during the time of my father’s death was greatly appreciated and a source of true comfort. In so many ways you were the arms of God surrounding us in a difficult time.

---- Pastor & Mary Knowles

♥ I would like to thank every-one who sent cards to me on my 86th birthday. You made my day! Thank you also to Pastor Knowles for his visits.

---- God Bless You All, Joan Freese

♥ Calvary Lutheran Church, Please accept this memorial in honor of our mother Anna “Dorothy” Mason. Mom has been a member of Calvary Lutheran since the early 1950’s – in fact I believe she attended in the basement. She valued the friendships she developed there. The “Lunch Bunch” and “Happy Hookers” were outings she loved to attend.

---- Gloria Cotlett & Family; Jim Mason & family and Caarrie Pauly & family.

♥ A big hug and thank you to my Calvary family for all the beautiful cards, phone calls, visits and prayers. I feel recovery is just around the corner. Some more raisins, liver & onions then maybe back on track. Thank you again for your many kindness.

---- Love & Hugs from Marilyn Mudd

• We would like to thank you and the donors of Calvary Lutheran Church for the blood drive you recently held with Mississippi Valley Regional Blood Center. Your group provided 10 donations for local hospitals served by MVRBC.

--- Sincerely, Amanda Hess,
Dir. Donor Relations

• We thank you for sharing your gift of giving with your donation to further the Lord’s work here at LOMC.

---- Russ Senti, Executive Director



We offer our sympathies and prayers to Bob Pearson and to the family and friends of Fran Pearson who passed away on Monday, August 22. Funeral services were held at Calvary on Friday, August 26. May each of you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ.



WELCA -All Calvary women are invited.

- ❖ **Deborah Circle** – Tuesday, September 6, 9:00 a.m. in the Upper Room. Doris Henriksen is hostess.
- ❖ **Rachel Circle** – will meet at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 6 for take and bake pizza. We are asking for free-will donations to help defray the cost of the pizza.
- ❖ **Unit Meeting** – Tuesday, September 20 at 6:00 p.m. for a Salad Supper. All women are invited to bring a salad to share. Rachel circle will be hostess. Deborah Circle has charge of the program – “Coloring is a World of Fun.” Arla Olson will guide us in exploring the use of coloring books, the latest trend in fun and relaxation.
Bring your colored pencils and/or colors and pictures (or they will be provided) and enjoy an evening of fun and fellowship. (if you have vision problems, someone will help you as you decide the colors and color with you.) Friends are invited too!!!
- ❖ **HAPPY HOOKERS** will meet on September 28 at 9:30 am

God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday

God’s Work, Our Hands Sunday is a day set aside for congregations throughout the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) for community service. This year the 5 ELCA congregations of Moline (First, Trinity, Salem, Calvary and San Jose Obrero) will combine efforts to offer thanks to Moline’s first responders for their dedicated service to the people of our community. The plan is to deliver “thank you” cookies and notes to all the fire stations, police stations and 911 dispatch centers in Moline on Sunday, September 11. Members of our congregations were invited to write personal notes of thanks on two Sundays in August for delivery by volunteers on September 11. (The cookies will be purchased in order to meet fire/police department safety regulations.) Cash donations are being accepted to cover costs with additional money being donated to charities designated by the local first responders.



VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

Each month, the Sunday Morning Servant Heart Volunteer Schedule is completed. If you know ahead of time that you will be gone for one Sunday or for weeks, please let know. I keep a calendar list of those who will be gone and will not schedule anyone who lets me know in advance. This makes my job easier. The rotation for Lector, Narthex Greeter and Communion Assistants is about 2 to 3 months, with Back Door being the exception. If I have scheduled you for a Sunday and you need to switch; you can either find a replacement or you can let me know and I will be more than happy to find someone. Either way, please let me know, so I can keep the schedule straight in the office and for the bulletin. If you would like to volunteer, please let me know and I will add you to my current list of volunteers. Thank you. Teri

THANK YOU TO EVERYONE



.....who brought contributions to the “Thanksgiving in July” food drive sponsored by Churches United. Calvary collected 530 pounds of food to distribute to Churches United food banks at Christ United Methodist Church and St. John’s Lutheran Church, both in East Moline. The congregation contributed 238 lbs. of food and the Thrivent Action Team grant of \$250 purchased 292 lbs. We celebrated with ice cream and cookies at coffee hour on Sunday, Aug. 7. As of August 18 Churches United has collected 9,605 lbs of food.

I hope you have all taken a moment to notice the big improvement in the landscape around the church. Last month I felt so sad with our neglectful look and unable to do anything about it. But along came some angels, Pam Ohrn, Gary Gross, Allen Noftsker and Dale Winter. What a difference these angels made. Thank you, thank you! We look prim and proper again. Love & Hugs, Marilyn Mudd





THANK YOU, ...To everyone who attended the Calvary Crusaders Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 21. A wonderful crowd enjoyed the food, entertainment by the “Just for Fun” band, the bingo, and prizes. Clowns also livened up the day. Our biggest thanks to all who contributed to our efforts to raise money for Relay for Life...the resulting \$357 completes our goal of raising \$1,000 through church events to receive a supplemental amount of \$500.00 from Thrivent Financial. A big “thank you” to Thrivent for this opportunity!

STAND DOWN – 2016

We are approaching the 2016 “Stand Down” event, September 15,16,17, to help homeless veterans. As you remember from last year, there is a great need for supplies and volunteers to help our veterans. WELCA would like to ask your support again this year in providing needed items to distribute at the Stand Down. Suggested items needed are:

- Warm, clean hats, coats, gloves
- Gently used clothes and shoes
- New socks, underwear and tee-shirts
- Combs, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, chapstick, soap, shaving cream, razors, deodorant

A box will be in the Narthex to collect donated items for the homeless vets. The items will be delivered to the Stand Down event. Funds from Thrivent Financial Action Team to help us with the project have been requested.



Church Women United will have a joint celebration with the Iowa Quad Cities Unit, the Moline, East Moline and Surrounding Communities Unit (MEMSCU), and the Rock Island/Milan Unit. This year’s Fall Fellowship celebration will be hosted by the Rock Island/Milan Unit on Friday, September 16, 2016. Our theme will be, “The Power of One.”

The celebration will begin in the fellowship hall at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 4501 7th Ave., Rock Island, IL. Registration will begin at 9:00 am, brunch at 9:30, and the program will follow brunch. The cost of the meal will be \$7.00. Each church will collect reservations and payment from their members. Please see Sue Knipe, if interested.

RELAY FOR LIFE – CALVARY CRUSADERS



The Calvary Crusaders have “Sweet Returns” Village Inn pie cards for sale.

Cards are \$12 with no expiration date. The team will receive \$3.50 profit for each card. See Jack or Marilyn Gross. (pie varieties include: cherry, coconut cream, country apple, French silk, lemon meringue, pumpkin, strawberry rhubarb and triple berry.

**RELAY - SATURDY, SEPTEMBER 17
3:00 – 10:00 P.M.
BLACK HAWK COLLEGE TRACK**

- Opening Ceremony – 3:00 p.m.
- Survivor Dinner – 5:00 p.m.
- Luminaria Ceremony – 8:00 p.m.

The Calvary Crusaders team will have a tent site and food available if you come out to visit us. The theme of the relay this year is “Paint the World Purple.” Wear purple and help us walk the track to celebrate a “world with more birthdays,” as the fight against cancer advances.

LUMINARIA ARE \$10 EACH AND CAN STILL BE PURCHASED...up and until the day of relay. Application forms are on the table in the Upper Room. Turn them in to any relay team member and they will receive credit for the team. It’s a beautiful way to honor all those who have battled cancer. All the names are read and shown on a screen during the luminaria ceremony at 8:00 p.m..

DINNER RAFFLE...The members of Beta Sigma Phi (the sorority part of our relay team) have tickets available (\$1.00 ea. – 6 for \$5.00) for a catered 4-course dinner for 12 prepared and served in your own home. Tickets are available from Marilyn Gross and at the Crusaders tent at relay. The value of the dinner is \$250. All proceeds from ticket sales will go to Relay for Lie via our Relay Team.

11th Annual Interfaith Women’s Dialogues will be held at Temple Emanuel, 1115 Mississippi Ave., Davenport on Mondays, September



26 and October 10 from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. This year’s topic is **Faith and Anger**. Program includes: Table discussions, Q&A, synagogue Tours. Refreshments will be served. Gathering is from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m. If you would like more information, please see the bulletin board by the Upper Room.