

# *Calvary Courier*

## *August 2025*

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor,

As I write this, I have just returned from vacation.

As some of you know, this was a working for vacation, of sorts, for me. Mary and I returned to the Pennsylvania community where I served my internship and then my first call. The main reason for our return to Somerset County was for me to officiate at the wedding of a young woman whose family we had been very close to in my first call and continue to remain close. In fact, the bride was born just hours before our son, Nathan. I was asked to officiate because the congregation the family belongs to, Mt. Calvary, one of the congregations from my first call, does not currently have a pastor. And, since they don't currently have a pastor, I volunteered to also do pulpit supply on Sunday morning.

Now, over the last few years, the situation for several churches in that area has changed. The congregation that Mt. Calvary had been yoked with in the parish I served has left the ELCA. Another congregation in the area, St. Luke's, has closed. And so, Mt. Calvary is now sharing ministry with the neighboring three-point parish where I did my internship along with some of the folks who had been members of the closed congregation.

The point of all this is to say that on Sunday morning, I led worship in two buildings from my internship (at 8:30 am and 10:30 am) with people from five different congregations. Many of those folks were people I ministered to and with when I was in Somerset County nearly 40 years ago.

Here's the part that caught me off guard, though. Over the course of Sunday morning, I connected with people as if I had never left. Certainly, we

had changed physically. But we seemed to pick up the relationship right where we had left off.

For example, one woman, who was a member of St. Luke's, came to the 8:30 am worship wearing a Pittsburgh Pirate t-shirt. She did it intentionally to goad me, remembering the cluster bus trips we took to Pirate games (for some reason always against the Cubs) in which the Pirates always won.

It all felt to me like I was returning to family. These were people who, 40 years ago, we shared in ministry. But we also developed life-long relationships. We worked together, we laughed together, we struggled together, we mourned together. They were then, and continue to be now, family.

That, I believe, is what being a part of the body of Christ is all about. We are family. We live and work together through all the trials and tribulations of life and ministry. And through it all, we develop life long, caring relationships. It is in these relationships that I most easily find the presence of Christ in my life.

And that experience has been the same for me everywhere I have served, including with you, the people of Calvary and St. James. I am confident that the relationships we have created will continue to endure through all the years that are to come.

And so, I am tremendously grateful for all the people I have had the honor to serve with throughout my career. You are family to me. And with you, we are the family of God.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Knowles*



### Happy Birthday to:

2 – Bryce Chase  
8 – Addi Miller  
10 – Valorie Daniel  
11 – Marilyn Mudd  
12 – Haley Mudd  
15 – Sheila Doering

25 – Tyler De'Shawn Bowser-Smith  
30 – Tyler Lee Miller  
31 – Linda Miner

### Happy Anniversary to:

9 – Connie & Terry Langston (1997)  
14 – LaVerne & Sue Knipe (1976)  
16 – Allen & Judy Noftsker (1998)  
20 – Greg & Karla Kirkwood- Johnson (1977)  
27 – Rev. Don & Mary Knowles (1983)  
29 – Rick & Pam Ohrn (1981)

**We would like to apologize** to everyone for not returning phone messages that you may have left at church within this past year. It came to our attention in June, that when we switched internet/phone service in August of 2024 – our voicemail had not been set up properly. We have since corrected this problem.

## AUGUST 3 - FOLLOWING WORSHIP MEETING WITH THE CONGREGATION

As most of you are aware there have been ongoing discussions between St. James and Calvary (via the "Vision Team") and among the eight ELCA congregations in Rock Island and Moline. At it's last meeting, the Vision Team recommended that Calvary and St. James invite their members to participate in an informal discussion about the issues facing our congregations in the near future. This is an opportunity for members to learn about what challenges are likely ahead for us and to share ideas about what potential solutions might be. The initial meetings will be held separately at St. James and Calvary with a joint meeting to held later. The Calvary Council has scheduled a meeting for Calvary members to take place following worship on August 3. Please plan to join in this important conversation.



**During the month of August & Sept.,**  
we have received the following words  
of thanks....

❖ A Big Thank You to my Calvary family for all your prayers, thoughts, and visits during my hospital stay and the time I spent at Friendship Manor. I am finally back home but having therapy. Miss seeing you but it sure will be a while before I get out for church. ----Hugs, Marilyn Mudd

❖ We would like to thank everyone for the cards, visits, flowers, food and personal condolences offered following the death of our sister, Cindy Pham, on August 28. A special "thank you" to those who contributed salads and/or served at the luncheon following the funeral. This was much appreciated, as there were many family members from out-of-town who attended and could enjoy some time for fellowship after the service. We are so very grateful for our "Calvary family" who have been there for us as we dealt with our sister's many health struggles in the past few years. What a blessing you are!

Sincerely, Pam Gross, Barb Geerts and  
(Cindy's children) Cassie Pham and  
Jon Pham, and families

❖ **from Churches United – Care Link** - Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministries of Churches United. We have received your \$165.00 donation to Moline Care Link. This enables us to keep helping those needing rent and utility assistance in this area. We are seeing an increase in calls, so the need for this ministry is still great. Thank you for your much-appreciated continued commitment to enriching the lives of those among us who are most in need.

❖ **from Churches United – General** – Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministries of Churches United. Your gift of \$347.67 helps us keep the doors open at Winnie's Transitional Housing, the only transitional housing in the Illinois Quad Cities for women and children who may be survivors of domestic violence. It also keeps the shelves of our 22 food pantries filled and food on the tables at our one free hot meal sit.

❖ **from LOMC** – Thank you for your generous support of \$240 to LOMC. Your gifts make it possible for us to welcome people of all ages to be formed in faith, spirituality, community, and leadership.

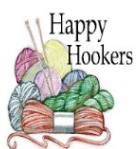


## SEPTEMBER DEADLINE – AUGUST 19

Please have your articles to me no later than August 19. You may email them, place them in my box or call the church office. The newsletter will be in your box Sunday, August 31.

## CCC – CALVARY CARE CREW AUGUST 20

CCC will meet Wednesday, August 20 at 9:00 a.m. Come and join the group to do some lite cleaning or yard work around the church. After working we will enjoy fellowship time with snacks.



## HAPPY HOOKERS – AUGUST 27

Happy Hookers will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 27. Come and join us for laughter, food and great fellowship.



## COLLECTING PET FOOD FOR AUGUST

### PET FOOD COLLECTION

The Service Committee will be collecting pet food for our 4-legged friends to donate to QCAWC in Milan for the month of August. They really need wet and dry kitten food, Purina Fancy Feast wet and Kitten dry as they have a lot of kittens to care for; along with Purina Cat Chow and Purina Dog Chow. We will have a table set up in the narthex. We will also be accepting monetary donations..



## 2025 Water Filter Drive for Families in Romania and Guatemala

Thank you for your donations! At Calvary, we received donations of \$1400.00, which will buy water filters & buckets, and Bibles, for 46 2/3 families! At St. James, the donations were \$800.00, for an additional 26 2/3 water filters, etc. for families.

The water filters and buckets will be purchased within the next month or two, and delivered to families by a mission team in October. If you submitted your name and email address to get a picture of the family that receives your donated water filter, the photo will come in October.

On behalf of Another Child Foundation, thank you all! Greg J.



## CALVARY'S BLOOD DRIVE

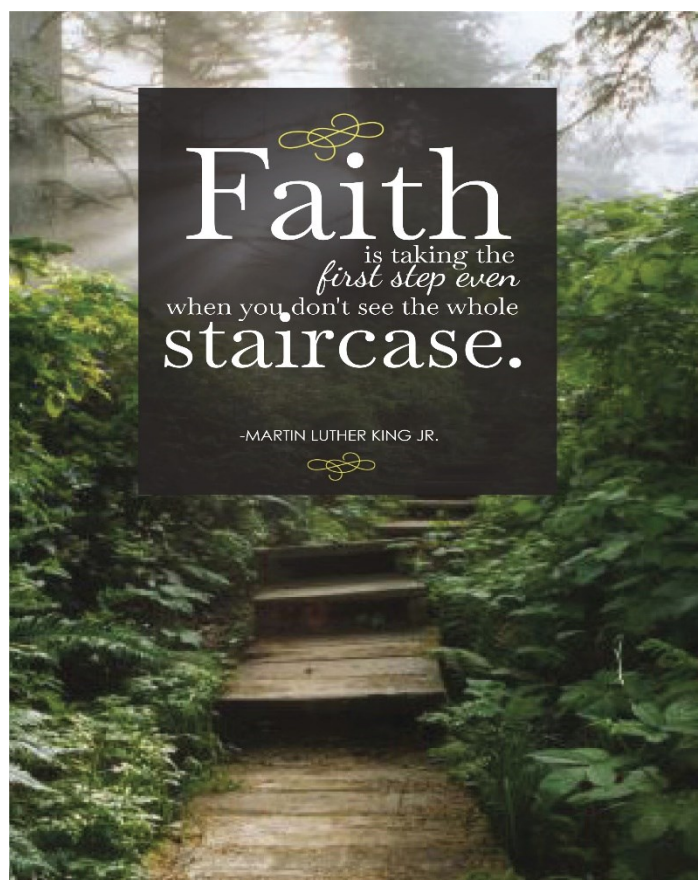
**Thank you to all** who donated blood at the blood drive in July. We had 12 volunteers to give with a total of 11 units of whole blood and double reds.



## WELCA CONVENTION

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025**

The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual WELCA convention will be held on Saturday, September 20 at First Lutheran Church – 226 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Rockford, IL. Coffee and Registration begins at 8:00 a.m. The theme for this years event is :Rescue, Redeem, Restor.” Kkeynote Speaker is Heidi Provo, Anti-Human Trafficking Case Manager and Certified Peer Recovery Specialist for Remedies Renewing Lives I-Rise Program. A block of rooms has been reserved at Hilton Garden Inn, 7675 Walton St. Rockford. If you would like to attend, please see Teri in the office for the registration. For more information, please look at the bulletin board outside the Upper Room.





Please read over carefully the two-month schedules. If you are unable to full-fill your commitment, please find a replacement and let Teri know in the office

### **ALTAR GUILD for AUGUST**

Val and Bruce Daniel

### **LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. AUGUST**

August 3 – Barb Geerts (L);  
Joe Geerts & Gary Gross (CA)  
August 10 – Karla Kirkwood-Johnson (L);  
Deb Faith & Renee Ketelsen (CA)  
August 17– Gordon Nelson (L)  
Connie & Terry Langston (CA)  
August 24 – Paul Levesque (L & CA)  
Dawn Levesque (CA)  
August 31 – Val Daniel ( & CA)  
Bruce Daniel (CA)

### **BACK DOOR GREETERS for AUGUST**

August 3 – Connie Langston  
August 10 – Jacki Dooley  
August 17 – Joe Geerts  
August 24– Dawn Levesque  
August 29 – Sandy Ohrn

### **COUNTERS for AUGUST**

August 3 – Paul Levesque & Barb Geerts  
August 10 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel  
August 17 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston  
August 24– Greg Johnson & Connie Langston  
August 31 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase

### **USHERS/GREETERS for AUGUST**

August 3 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase  
August 10 –Joe Geerts & Gary Gross  
August 17 – Kirk Ketelsen  
August 24– David Peterson & Terry Langsotn  
August 31 – Vicki McAlister & Volunteer

### **ALTAR GUILD for SEPTEMBER.**

Judi Ingerson and Sandy Ohrn

### **LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. SEPT.**

Sept. 7 – Joe Geerts (L & CA);  
Terry Langston (CA)  
Sept. 14 – Renee Ketelsen (L & CA);  
Connie Langston (CA)  
Sept. 21 – Jacki Dooley (L);  
Bruce & Val Daniel (CA)  
Sept. 28– Deb Faith (L & CA)  
Sandy Ohrn (CA)

### **BACK DOOR GREETERS for SEPT.**

Sept. 7 – Terry Langston  
Sept. 14 – Barb Geerts  
Sept. 21 – Linda Chase  
Sept. 28– Pam Gross

### **COUNTERS for SEPT.**

Sept. 7 – Charlene Lundstrom & Vicki McAlister  
Sept. 14 – Barb Geerts & Teri Griebel  
Sept. 21 – Deb Faith & Paul Levesque  
Sept. 28– Gary Gross & Terry Langston

### **USHERS/GREETERS for SEPT.**

Sept. 7 – Bruce & Val Daniel  
Sept. 14 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase  
Sept. 21 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross  
Sept. 28– Kirk Ketelsen