



Calvary Courier

April 2024

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Chu

From the Pastor:

As I work through the Book of Acts for the second time in the last few years in Bible study, I am regularly reminded of a recurring theme. In both the story of Jesus from the Gospel of Luke and in Acts (both authored by the same person that we refer to as “Luke”) Luke repeatedly makes the point that God is always guiding Jesus, his disciples, and the early church through the Holy Spirit. God has not and will not abandon his people, no matter what challenges the world may bring.

It is important to remember that assertion from Luke as we recognize that the future of the church, including our congregations, is facing challenges as we look ahead to our immediate future. In general, church membership and participation in our country is declining. There are fewer of us, and consequently often less money, to fulfill the mission that God has set before us. Likewise, there are fewer ordained pastors to fill leadership positions within congregations. I suspect it comes as no surprise to you that the church of the next decade will not look like the church of the past ten years. The church, by necessity, is changing.

But change need not mean better or worse. It just means different. And trusting in the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I believe that we must and will change in order to continue the mission of spreading the gospel of the love of God in Christ.

To anticipate and prepare for that change, I believe it is critically important that we be open to new models of being the church. As we have already experienced at Calvary and St. James, the idea of one congregation with one pastor doing all things for all people is unlikely to be sustainable. Rather, it will be necessary for us to work together.

As the people of God at St. James and Calvary, the Holy Spirit has already started us on that path, to the benefit of both congregations. Sharing pastoral

leadership, though, I think is just the beginning. There is so much more that we can do together in faithful service to God’s mission for us.

To that end, a group of leaders from each congregation has formed a “Vision Team” to begin the dialog of our joint mission. I have challenged those leaders to consider what we can do together in serving God that we might not be able to do alone. A number of ideas have been generated, and as we put some flesh on those ideas you will hear more about them.

As a first, concrete step, we have decided (and the councils have approved) to hold two joint worship services. So, on May 26, Calvary and St. James will worship together at Calvary at 10:30 am. Then, on September 1, we will worship together at St. James at 8:30 am.

The intention of these joint services, and for many of our initial ideas, is to form and strengthen our relationships with one another. As we get to know each other better, I believe the possibilities for ministry together will grow.

Guided by the Spirit, we will meet the challenges before us and not just survive but thrive.

There are two other points that I would like to make regarding this issue.

First, part of what precipitated this discussion between our two congregations is that I anticipate retiring in about 3½ years. At that point, if the Calvary and St. James want to continue sharing pastoral leadership, the relationship between the two will probably need to be formalized. Please be assured that this does not mean we are talking about merger. (If you want to know more about what I’m talking about, please ask me.)

Second, there is a similar conversation taking place among the pastors who are serving ELCA

congregations in Moline and Rock Island. As congregations in the Quad Cities, we are also looking for ways that we can share ministry for the benefit of God's mission. I believe we will soon be working to involve our congregational leaders in that discussion as well.

The bottom line: the world is throwing challenges at our congregations. The world, as always, is changing. And so must we. With the Spirit leading us, we will meet those challenges and bring the Word of God to our communities in new and exciting ways.

In Christ,
Pastor Knowles

P.S. The members of the Vision Team are:

- Calvary – Val Daniel, Pam Gross, Greg Johnson & Terry Langston
- St. James – Jerry Johansen, Terrill Johnson, Donna Renneke, Bethany Weipert



Happy Birthday to:

- 1 – Kurt Dicks, Carolyn Coulter
- 4 – Judy Noftsker

- 6 – John James Gross
- 7 – Greg Johnson
- 9 – Joe Geerts, Gene Untiedt,
- 10 – Marilyn Gross
- 13 – Betsy Untiedt
- 15 - Randi Toft
- 18 – Erik Ohrn
- 19 – Jimmy Duncan

Happy Anniversary to:

- 13 – Mike & Stephanie Mudd (1991)



HAPPY HOOKERS – April 24

Happy Hookers will meet at 9:30 a.m. on April 24.

Knit-A-Bit will be meeting on the Last Tuesday of the month – April 30.

May Newsletter Deadline



All articles for the May newsletter should be emailed to the church office or placed in my box by **Tuesday, April 16**, for distribution on Thursday, April 25.



During the month of March, we have received the following words of thanks....

❖ **from Marilyn & Jack Gross:**

Thank you to all our Calvary friends and family who helped us celebrate our 70th Wedding Anniversary with cards and good wishes on Sunday, March 3 in the Upper Room.....it was so nice to share our special day with you.

❖ **from Ellen Dalton:** Thank you for the use of your facility for our Living Water Via de Cristo team training back on February 3. We appreciate your support.

❖ **from ELCA, Amanda White, Dir., Congregational Generosity:** Thank you for your gift(s) given to your synod, received by Lutheran Disaster Response in December 2023. Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disaster. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

❖ **from Churches United:** Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministries of Churches United. Your \$333.33 helps us keep the doors open at Winnie's Transitional Housing. Your \$321.66 to Moline Care Link, helps those in need for rent and utility assistance for this area.

❖ **From Operation Christmas Child:** Thank you, Calvary Lutheran Church for lovingly and prayerfully packing 29 shoebox gifts in Jesus' Name. Your gifts continue to open doors to share the Gospel with Children many who have never heard about God's love for them.

BASEMENT LADIES at CIRCA 21 – APRIL 17
 We will be meeting at Circa 21 on April 17th. When you arrive, go inside and tell them you are from Calvary. Doors open at 11:45 a.m. with the Bootlegger show beginning at 12:45 p.m.

CALVARY CARE CREW – will not meet in April due to conflicts. We will look forward to working outdoors on our May date.

FOUND – A lady's jacket from Ash Wednesday Service.
It is hanging on the coatrack outside the Upper Room.



We offer our sympathies and prayers to friends and family of Bob Fuller. Bob passed away on October 28, 2023. No services were held. May each of you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ

MINI CHOIR will sing again on May 26

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of our choir for Easter. As mentioned, we will be singing with a combined choir on May 26 with St. James at Calvary on May 26 at 10:30 a.m.. Our rehearsals will begin on April 7 after worship. The music chosen is :Fall On Us by Mary McDonald. You may go to JW Pepper and search Fall On Us to listen. Teri Griebel.

**LAST CALL FOR BOOK STUDY GROUP
"The Color of Compromise"**

We'll meet Thursday mornings, 10:30 a.m. until noon, at Calvary, beginning April 4.

After prayer, we'll view a short video by the author introducing the chapter. Our discussion will follow, concluding by noon.

I am excited to begin this journey with you. I believe it can provide us a way to learn and grow in our understanding of the complex and pervasive issue of racism. I pray that our discussions will provide everyone with the opportunity to share their thoughts and listen to one another with open hearts.

Please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Books are available in the church office for a donation of \$10.

Thank you, Pastor Quentin Fleming, retired



**CALVARY
COLLECTION ITEMS**

There are baskets in the hallway for items that we collect throughout the year. Used eye glasses are given to the Lions Club. Empty ink cartridges go to the library. Pop cam tabs are taken to the Ronald McDonald house or the Shriners for their fund-raising efforts. Old phones and e-waste (anything with a plug or battery) is taken to be recycled over in Davenport. We also collect food items in our grocery cart in the Narthex which is then taken to the Youth Hope food pantry.



**CAFÉ ON VINE
SERVING ON MAY 4**

Watch for a Café on Vine sign up sheet in the narthex. We serve May 4, so save the date. Thank you to all who donate and help with this service project. **Please save these future dates for Café on Vine, July 27 and November 9**



WELCA APRIL 3 at 11:00 a.m.

WELCA will meet on Wednesday, April 3 at 11:00 a.m. Please bring items to share. The meeting will be short.

**WELCA SPRING ASSEMBLY
Friday, April 19**

WELCA Spring Assembly will be April 19. Registration and refreshments will be at 9:00 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 4501 7th Avenue, Rock Island. Program at 9:30 a.m. with Ann O'Klock and Sherman Therapy dog. If you would like to attend, please contact Connie Avey by calling 309-786-1917 or email: connieaveycm@aol.com.



**WELCA
BASEMENT SALE
CANCELED**

Due to extenuating circumstances, the sale scheduled for May 17 and 18 has been canceled! If you do have items for a sale next year, you may still drop off in the Sunday school room downstairs. Please remember, we are not accepting clothes.

**2024 Boot Drive for Kids
in Romania and Guatemala**

This year we will be collecting donations which will go toward buying boots for the kids in Romania and Guatemala. It is very rainy and muddy where these kids live; these boots will be very helpful keeping the kids clean.

Our drive will run through June 16th. Each donation of \$15.00 will buy a pair of kids rain boots. There will be a display in the narthex starting April 21st. More information will be provided later.

See Greg Johnson with any questions, and thank you!



Volunteer Schedule

Please read over carefully the two-month schedules. Please note there are now two communion assistants listed for each Sunday. If you are unable to full-fill your commitment, please find a replacement and let Teri know in the office

ATAR GUILD for APRIL

Barb Geerts & Connie Langston

LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. APRIL

April. 7 – Joe Geerts (L & CA);
Terry Langston (CA)
April 14 – Renee Ketelsen (L & CA);
Sandy Ohrn (CA)
April 21 – Deb Faith (L & CA)
Val Daniel (CA)
April 28 – Gary Gross (L & CA);
Bruce Daniel (CA)

BACK DOOR GREETERS for APRIL

April 7 – Renee Ketelsen
April 14 – Deb Faith
April 21 – Sandy Ohrn
April 28 – Terry Langston

COUNTERS for APRIL

April. 7 – Pam Gross & Connie Langston
April 14 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase
April 21 – Charlene Lundstrom & Vicki McAlister
April 28 – Deb Faith & Barb Geerts

USHERS/GREETERS for APRIL

April 7 – David Peterson & Terry Langston
April 14 – Vicki McAlister & Ruth Laabs
April 21 – Bruce & Val Daniel
April 28 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase

ALTAR GUILD for MAY

Judy Ingerson

LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. MAY

May 5 – Karla Kirkwood Johnson (L);
Bruce & Val Daniel (CA)
May 12 – Paul Levesque (L & CA)
Dawn Levesque (CA)
May 19 – Sandy Ohrn (L & CA)
Sheila Doering (CA)
May 26 – Val Daniel (L & CA);
Connie Langston (CA)

BACK DOOR GREETERS for MAY

May 5 – Linda Chase
May 12 – Joe Geerts
May 19 – Vicki McAlister
May 26 – Gary Gross

COUNTERS for MAY

May 5 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel
May 12 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston
May 19 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston
May 26 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase

USHERS/GREETERS for MAY

May 5 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross
May 12 – Kirk Ketelsen
May 19 – David Peterson & Terry Langston
May 26 – Vicki McAlister & Ruth Laabs