

Calvary Courier

December 2024

, ALONG WITH A LIST OF
MAILBOX NAMES

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor,

I know I may seem a little old for this, but I will admit that I get homesick. When I go away for conferences (like the few I've attended in Gettysburg or the most recent one in Elkhorn, WI) I will sit in my hotel room in the evening and just wish that I were at home, sitting on my well-worn couch or putting my head down in my familiar bed. There is comfort for all of us in the familiar, in being surrounded by what we know. Likewise, I think to some degree, the unfamiliar makes us uncomfortable. When given a choice, I believe most of us would rather retreat to the familiar than embark on the unknown.

I believe also that is just as true for congregations as it is for individuals. As a community we are happier and more comfortable with the familiar while the unknown or unfamiliar can make us anxious.

Unfortunately for most mainline Christian congregations, the well-known and familiar ways of being the church must inevitably change. The old model of being a congregation – one or more pastors serving a single congregation in their own building – is probably not sustainable for most. There are far more pastors retiring than being ordained. Culturally, fewer people are participating in institutional religious organizations (meaning going to or supporting churches) than in previous generations. The bottom line is that churches will not be able to retreat to the old familiar. To continue, congregations in the not-too-distant future will need to embark on new ways of being the church.

While that may create some anxiety, it is not necessarily a bad thing. Some of the most significant, positive, things in my life happened because I resisted the urge to retreat to my old, comfortable surroundings.

And the same, I firmly believe, will be true for us. As Calvary Lutheran Church, we will need to change.

Certainly not immediately. We are OK right now. But that will not last forever. We will have to do things differently at some point.

In fact, we are already transitioning. A little more than seven years ago the people of Calvary risked doing things a little differently by agreeing to share a pastor with the people of St. James. Certainly, there was some anxiety about that. But not only has Calvary survived that change, but I think in some ways we are stronger because of it.

Our relationship with St. James is still evolving and maturing. It may, at times, create some anxiety. But it is an example of how we must be willing to adapt to best serve God in our current place and time.

And I can assure you that these new ways of being the church are not the last for us. St. James and Calvary have, for about a year, been talking about ways that we can strengthen our mission by working together.

And on an even broader scale, all the ELCA congregations in Rock Island and Moline have begun a conversation about how best to serve God and the people of the Quad Cities in the years to come. We are looking at ways to collaborate to make the most of our God-given gifts.

Change must and will come. That is true for any living thing. As the church, we trust that God is with us through all our efforts. In the end, I am confident that these efforts will lead to significant and positive things. We just have to be willing to resist the feelings of homesickness and embark on the unknown journey the Spirit is leading us on.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles



Happy Birthday to:

- 5 – Andrew Levesque,
- 9 – Dawn Levesque
- 10 – Charlene Lundstrom
- 13 – Karen Thorsvold
- 15 – Quentin Fleming
- 23 – Ian Mudd

- 25 – Sidney Mudd
- 29 – Jacki Dooley

Happy Anniversary to:

- 7 – Megan & Michael Necessary (2009)



On Sunday, December 3, in your mailboxes will be an updated directory of our members You may bring

Christmas cards for regular attending members and place them in their mailbox. Please mail cards to shut-ins, those who go out of town for the winter or do not attend regularly. We don't want them to sit in their mailboxes all year. Please put your return address on the envelope.

List of Shut-ins

Bev Boyle – B210
 FRIENDSHIP MANOR
 1209 21st Avenue
 Rock Island, IL 61201

Betty Clark
 4231 26th Ave
 Moline, IL 61265

Ted Jackson
 35755 Detroit Rd #334
 Avon, OH 44011

Kurt & Lisa Dicks
 2347 32nd St
 Moline, IL 61265

Roget & Karen Thorsvold
 PO Box 23
 Orion, IL 61273

Ann Donahue - #261
 Cindy Pham - #224
 Gisele Richardson - #300
 NEW PERSPECTIVE
 1900 10th Street
 Silvis, IL 61282

Gene Untiedt
 2205 Kimberly Rd - #343
 Bettendorf, IA 52722

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



Let us join together and celebrate the birth of Jesus by attending Calvary's Sunset service at 4:00 p.m. or St. James Evening service at 7:00 p.m.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS



CHURCH OFFICE: Teri will be in the office beginning on Monday, **December 16 through December 19 and again on Monday, December 23.**

**OFFICE CLOSED
DECEMBER 24 THROUGH JANUARY 3**

The church office will be closed on December 24 through January 3 as Pastor Knowles and Teri Griebel will be on vacation. **On Monday, January 6** the office will reopen with both Pastor Knowles and Teri in the office. Pastor Knowles can be reached on his cell phone (815) 866-9595.

**DEADLINE FOR
POINSETTIA
ORDERS IS DECEMBER 5**



Please be sure and have your order forms into the office by **December 5.** The cost is \$10.00. There is an order form on page 4 of this newsletter. You may send an email to secretary@calvarymoline.org or call the church office at (309) 762-5423.

Don't Forget!
**ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26**



**ANNUAL REPORT
DEADLINE
MONDAY, JANUARY 6**

This year the Annual Report deadline is Monday, January 6. ALL REPORTS should be in the office or emailed to the church office by the deadline.

The reports should be out by Sunday, January 19 or before.





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



From Churches United – Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministries of Churches United. We have received your \$494.16 donation for Moline/E. Moline CareLink. This enables us to keep helping those in need for rent and utility assistance for this area.



I would like to thank everyone who helped with our Shoe Box Christmas gifts. This year we were able to make 29 complete boxes. Deb Faith delivered the boxes to Calvary Church of the Quad Cities.

----Sue Knipe, WELCA



ALTAR GUILD – DECEMBER 9

ALTAR GUILD MEETING will be held on Monday, December 9 at 11:15 a.m. after bible study in the Upper Room. We are looking for more volunteers.



WELCA NEWS....

Christmas Luncheon

Wednesday, December 4 at 11:00 am

All women are invited to attend our WELCA Christmas luncheon at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 4 at Deerfield Family Restaurant - 2215 John Deere Rd, Carbon Cliff. Bring a friend. Hope to see you there!

OPERATION CHRISTMAS SHOE BOXES

WELCA and ladies of the church filled 43 shoe boxes full of gifts for needy children. A grant from Thrivent helped buy items, but many shoeboxes were filled individually by our ladies. Thank you to all who participated in this effort, which is a project of Samaritan's Purse. Contribution to WELCA for shipping costs are still welcome (\$10.00) a box.



MEMBERS OF CALVARY

We have council members with terms expiring in January, and we are looking for volunteers from the congregation to join the council. If you are interested, or have any questions about how the council operates, please contact Pastor at (309) 762-5423

**SERVICE COMMITTEE
LSSI – GIFTS DUE BY DECEMBER 1**

If you are buying Christmas gifts for LSSI – the gifts are to be at church no later than **Sunday, December 1**. Please be sure and put your child's number on the gifts and **DO NOT WRAP!** Also, if anyone has extra wrapping paper that you would like to donate to LSSI, please bring to church and place with the gifts received.



**CHRISTMAS CAROLING WITH ST. JAMES
ON DECEMBER 8**



Christmas Caroling with St James. Sunday December 8. We will gather at St. James around 1:45 to get on the bus at 2:00 and head out caroling to our shut ins. We are planning about 4 stops. Will return to St. James by 4:30 for refreshments. Everyone one is invited to come and join in on the fun.

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is **December 12** for distribution on **December 18**. Please have your articles to me as soon as you can, as this will be a short month. You may email or put your articles in my box. Thanks, Teri

CALVARY MINI CHOIR - DECEMBER 15

The Calvary Mini Choir will sing during Offertory on December 15. This small group has been meeting after our worship service for over a month. It has been a pleasure working with each of you.

Thank you – Teri Griebel & Mary Knowles



**CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON
DECEMBER 15 at NOON
Reservations Due December 10**

We are having a Christmas Luncheon on December 15 at noon in Erlander Hall. We are taking reservations. There are sign-up sheets on the on the narthex table and in the upper room. You may call the church office or send an email. Reservations are due by Tuesday, December 10. We will need a count for ordering food. Free will donation accepted to help cover the cost of the food. WELCA ladies are asked to bring 2 dozen cookies.

**FROM THE JOINT VISION TEAM
CALVARY AND ST. JAMES**

JOINT CHURCH SERVICES FOR 2025

Joint Services will be held on the 5th Sunday of the month alternating between the two churches.

The dates are:

March 30 – Calvary with Joint Choir

June 29 – St. James with a picnic at Sunset Park, Rock Island following worship.

Reservations possible.

More details will come.

August 30 – Calvary

November 30 – St. James

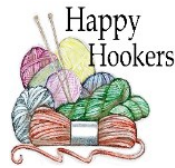


Order your Poinsettia

Deadline: December 5

HAPPY HOOKERS NO DECEMBER MEETING

Happy Hookers will not meet in December. Stay home where it is warm and enjoy your Christmas cookies. See you in January.



Thank You to everyone who contributed to the Youth Hope Food basket drive for families. A total of 267 items were collected and delivered. We collected:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| 24 - Boxed Stuffing | 14 – Vegetable Oil |
| 22 - Cornbread/Biscuit Mix | 22 – Boxed Potatoes |
| 37 - Canned Green Beans | 24 – Canned Pumpkin |
| 20 - Cake/Brownie/Cookie Mix | |
| 22 - Canned Cranberry Sauce | |
| 34 - Boxed Macaroni & Cheese | |
| 19 - Canned Sweet Potatoes/Yams | |
| 29 - Gravy Pouch or Jars | |

USHER and COUNTER LISTS

The Usher and Counter lists for 2025 will be in our boxes by Sunday, December 15.

Also, if you would like to volunteer as Back Door greeter, Lector, Communion Assistant, Usher, Counter or as a Sub, there are forms on the Narthex table. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered this past year. Teri

NOTE: THE CALVARY CARETAKER CREW will not meet in December. Thank you to all who have helped out during the past year. See you all in January.

Now \$10.00

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

Please complete the appropriate information:

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by _____





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

ALTAR GUILD for DECEMBER

Sandy Ohrn, Pam Ohrn

LECTORS & COMMUNION ASSTANTS

For DECEMBER

- December 1 – Paul Levesque (L & CA);
Dawn Levesque (CA)
- December 8 – Karla Kirkwood-Johnson (L)
Bruce & Val Daniel (CA)
- December 15 – Gary Gross (L & CA);
Joe Geerts (CA)
- December 22 – Renee Ketelsen (L & CA);
Sandy Ohrn (CA)
- December 24** – Barb Geerts (L);
Connie & Terry Langston (CA)
- December 29 – LESSONS AND CAROLS
NO COMMUNION

BACK DOOR GREETERS for DECEMBER

- Decemberr 1 – Sandy Ohrn
- December 8 – Linda Chase
- December 15 – Connie Langston
- December 22 – Terry Langston
- December 24** – Pam Gross
- December 29 – Gary Gross

COUNTERS for DECEMBER

- Decemberr 1 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel
- December 8 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston
- December 15 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston
- December 22 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase
- December 24** – **NO COUNTERS**
- December 29 – Charlene Lundstrom &
Connie Langston

USHERS/GREETERS for DECEMBER

- Decemberr 1 – Gary Gross & Joe Geerts
- December 8 – David Peterson & Terry Langston
- December 15 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase
- December 22 – Gary Gross
- December 24** – Bruce & Val Daniel
- December 29 – Kirk Ketelsen

ALTAR GUILD FOR JANUARY

TO BE ANNOUNCED

**LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. FOR
JANUARY**

- Jan.. 5 – Sandy Ohrn (L & CA)
Sheila Doering (CA)
- Jan. 12 – Renee Ketelsen (L & CA)
Connie Langston (CA)
- Jan. 19 – Joe Geerts (L & CA)
Gary Gross (CA)
- Jan. 26 – Val Daniel (L & CA)
Bruce Daniel (CA)

BACK DOOR GREETERS FOR JANUARY

- Jan.. 5 – Connie Langston
- Jan. 12 – Sandy Ohrn
- Jan. 19 – Renee Ketelsen
- Jan. 26 – Barb Geerts

COUNTERS FOR JANUARY

- Jan.. 5 – Paul Levesque & Barb Geerts
- Jan. 12 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel
- Jan. 19 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston
- Jan. 26 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston

USHERS/GREETERS FOR JANUARY

- Jan.. 5 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase
- Jan. 12 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross
- Jan. 19 – Kirk Ketelsen
- Jan. 26 – David Peterson & Terry Langston

December 2024

November '24							January '25						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	26	27	28	29	30	31	

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 1ST Sunday in Advent LSSI CHRISTMAS GIFTS DUE 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship	2 9:00 am Flexible Flexors	3	4 11:00:00 AM WELCA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON DEERFIELD RESTAURANT	5 Poinsettia Order Deadline 9:00 am Flexible Flexors	6	7
8 2ND Sunday in Advent 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship 1:45 pm Christmas Caroling Meet at St. James, Rock Island	9 9:00 am Flexible Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	10 1:00 pm Church Council	11	12 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:00 am Flexible Flexors	13	14
15 3RD Sunday in Advent 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship NOON - WELCA LUNCHEON	16 9:00 am OFFICE OPEN 9:00 am Flexible Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	17	18	19 NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTED 9:00 am Flexible Flexors 7:00 pm Quad City Coin Club - Erlander Hall	20	21
22 4TH Sunday in Advent 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship	23 9:00 am OFFICE OPEN 9:00 am Flexible Flexors NO BIBLE STUDY	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service - St. James, Rock Island	25 	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 OFFICE CLOSED	28
OFFICE CLOSED THIS WEEK - PASTOR AND TERI ON VACATION DEC. 26 THROUGH JAN. 3, 2025						
29 LESSONS & CAROLS 10:30 am Worship with the Prazin Hymn Trio	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 NEW YEARS EVE OFFICE CLOSED	1 OFFICE CLOSED 	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4
Notes: Poinsettia Orders are due in the office by December 5 th. December 15 - CHOIR SINGS; WELCA LUNCHEON - Information on Page 3 of Newsletter December 16 - OFFICE WILL BE OPEN THROUGH DECEMBER 19 AND ON DECEMBER 23 December 24 - 4:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service at Calvary, Moline December 24 - 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service at St. James, Rock Island ** Please Note - Pastor may be reached on his cell.**						