

Calvary Courier

February 2025

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor:

As I sit at my desk at Calvary, on the wall facing my desk is a banner created for me in honor of the 25th anniversary of my ordination. On the banner are pictures representing my calls through the years. In the center of the banner is the butcher-block sign that sits at the entrance to Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center, where I served my second call.

The story of the design of the sign has been an inspiration to me ever since it was created.

LOMC's executive director commissioned a local Mt. Morris, Illinois artist to create a sign/logo for the camp. The artist, who happened to be agnostic, listened to the executive director's explanation of Christianity and the mission of the camp. The design created by the artist was a solid wood sign with the words, "Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center" and a cut-out in the shape of a cross. He told the director that what he understood the mission of Christians and the camp to be was to *"look at the world through the cross."* So, he created a sign in which people would look, not at, but through the cross.



That insight has shaped my understanding of my call and the mission of the church ever since.

For me, the cross is the symbol of God's ultimate act of sacrificial love for humanity through Jesus Christ. It is a symbol of love of one's neighbors and one's enemies. It is a symbol of losing one's self for the sake of the gospel. So, to look at the world through the cross as the church is to see the world as the place in which the love of God is to be shared in both word and deed, even at the expense of our lives.

As the people of God at Calvary and St. James, I am pleased at the many ways that we look at the world

through the cross and seek to serve others with sacrificial love.

- We provide meals for those experiencing housing or food insecurity at Christian Care and Café on Vine. We support hunger ministries through the ELCA World Hunger ministry as well.
- We help provide affordable housing in our support of Habitat for Humanity.
- We have provided comfort and love for nursing home residents with quilts and lap robes.
- We have supported efforts to provide basic education needs for underprivileged children around the world with school kits through Church World Service.
- We have helped keep our community clean by picking up litter in the Adopt-A-Highway program.
- We have provided aid for people around the country and around the world who have been victims of natural disasters through ELCA Disaster Response.
- We have supported our members and friends in times of grief with funeral meals.
- We have shared the Word of God with people in our community through weekly in-person worship and with others literally across the globe as we livestream our worship services.
- We have supported mission work throughout the United States and around the world through our mission support to the Northern Illinois Synod and the ELCA.

All of these ministries, and many more, we have done by seeing the world through the cross – a world in need of the love of God.

Thank you for your vision, and for offering your time, talent and resources in sharing the Word of God with the world in both word and deed.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles

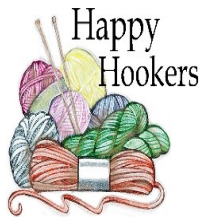


Happy Birthday to:

- 2 – Rick Ohrn
- 7 – Renee Ketelsen
- 8 – Megan Necessary
- 9 – Beth Fuller
- 10 – Kendall Knowles
- 15 – Elaine Foster
- 17 – Dorothy Harmening
- 20 – Linda Johansen
- 21 – Lisa Dicks, Logan Gross, Sue Knipe

HAPPY HOOKERS January 29 and February 26

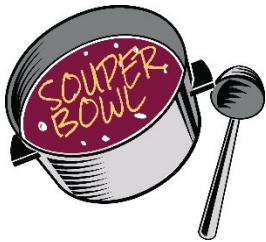
The Happy Hookers will be meeting on January 29 and on February 26 at 9:30 a.m. We will begin working on projects for 2025. Everyone is welcome to join our fun group to enjoy our great fellowship and delicious snacks. If you have ideas for next year’s Christmas gifts, please share. Of course, if the weather is bad, please stay home.



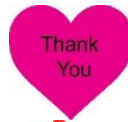
SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 3

There will be a Service Committee meeting on Monday, February 3 at 11:15 in the Upper Room. We will discuss service opportunities for 2025. If you are interested in what volunteer opportunities are available for 2025 or have some new ideas, please join us. If you cannot attend this meeting, but have some ideas and would like to be involved, please contact Valorie Daniel.

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY - February 9



February 9 is Souper Bowl Sunday. We will be collecting monetary donations for churches United food pantries after the service. Empty your piggy banks and check your couches for change! Make some noise as you drop it in the pot. We will also except bills and checks.



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

♥ **From Fran & LeRoy Freeze:** Thank you to all the Christmas caroling. They were wonderful! Thank you to the Happy Hookers for the Beautiful lap robes. We enjoyed it very much. God Bless.

♥ **From Betty Clark:** Dear Happy Hookers: Thank you so much for the shawl, it is lovely. And my blanket. Its so nice to put over me when I’m in my chair watching TV. Sure hope this is a better year for me. Thanks for remembering me.

♥ **From Ann Donahue:** The visit by the large group of carolers and hearing the Christmas songs was a great start to the Christmas Holidays. Thanks again to the Hookers for remembering me with the beautiful quilt. May you all have a healthy, happy 2025.

♥ **From Gisele Richardson:** Thank you Dear Friends for the Christmas Carols “time” and also the beautiful warm quilt you offered me. With my best wishes for a Happy New Year. Joyeux Noel.

♥ **From Christian Care:** On behalf of Christian Care, I would like to thank you for your recent donation, which we received on November 13, 2024. Because of your gift, we can continue to serve the needs of men, women and children. The impact you are making will be felt throughout the community as we continue to work with our partners to address homelessness and food insecurity.

♥ **From Heifer International:** We wanted to take a moment to personally thank you for your generous donation for \$587.37. On January 15, we received a phone, thanking us again for our donation and to inform us our gift was matched.

♥ **From Café on Vine:** Thank you so for the incredible gift of \$587.35 dated December 12, 2024, to assist Café on Vine. We are so grateful for your generous support as we partner to feed the hungry of our community. Again, we thank you for your support of Café on Vine! On behalf of our Board and the team, thank you for being an incredible part of fighting hunger in our community.

♥ **Churches United:** Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministries of Churches United. Thank you for your much-appreciated continued commitment to enriching the lives of those among us who are most in need.

SAVE THE DATES:



SERVING at CAFÉ ON VINE

We will be serving lunch at Café on Vine on the following dates: **April 12, June 21 and November 8.** As we have for the past several years, we will have sign-up sheets in the Narthex for food items and for workers. Please watch the March newsletter for more details.



**MARCH Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday, February 11**

All articles for the February newsletter should be emailed to the church office or placed in my box by **Tuesday, February 11.** The newsletter will be in your box on Sunday, February 23.

**CALVARY CARETAKER CREW –
February 19**

February 19 at 9:00 a.m. – CCC will meet to do some light cleaning around the church. Everyone is welcome. We work for about an hour and then join together for some food and fellowship. Any questions contact Pam Gross 309-78-2385.

**LOOKING AHEAD to MARCH
HELP NEEDED FOR LENTEN LUNCHES....**

This year, as in the past, we would like to serve Lenten Lunches. Watch the table in the Upper Room for the sign-up sheet. If you have thought about serving or would like more information, please see Charlene Lundstrom,



The dates are: March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 and 9.



**WELCA Basement Sale
Friday, April 4 from
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, April 5 from
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Gather all those things you thought you needed and never use. Gather collections that you never display anymore. Old Jewelry, utensils, pictures & frames – furniture – etc. If it's sitting there in a box or on a shelf just taking up room – Bring it to the sale! Place all your goodies in the room downstairs. **NO CLOTHING!** Start now – we need your treasures to share – in our sale. Call me if you have questions – Sandy Ohrn – 309-373-8261.

What will the presence of the Lutheran Church look like in the next five or ten years?

The pastors of the eight ELCA congregations in the Quad Cities have been contemplating that question for the last year or so. We don't have a definitive answer. But we do know that, for several reasons (declining worship attendance, aging membership, shortage of pastors), our ministries will need to be different. Starting in October we invited our congregation's lay leaders to join the discussion.

Now we would like to invite any and all interested members to be a part of the conversation. On February 9, from 1:00 - 3:00 pm, we would like to invite anyone interested to gather at Augustana College in the Gerber Center. Our task will be to engage in some holy imagining about how we can best continue our mission as God's people in the Quad Cities in the face of our various challenges.

This is a similar process to what St. James and Calvary are already doing in shared ministries and the vision team. This will just expand the scope of our vision to include the congregations of Moline and Rock Island

Please let me emphasize: the purpose of this meeting is not to advocate for or introduce a process of merging and/or closing congregations. We are simply acknowledging the issues and looking for ideas.

There is no registration. However, we would like to have an idea of how many people might attend so we can have adequate supplies (including cookies and coffee). So, please see Pastor Knowles for additional details and to let him know if you think you will participate.



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

ALTAR GUILD for FEBRUARY

Renee Ketelsen and Candice Tennison

**LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST.
R FEBRUARY**

- Feb. 2 – Gary Gross (L & CA);
Bruce Daniel (CA)
- Feb. 9 – Barb Geerts (L);
Renee Ketelsen & Sandy Ohrn (CA)
- Feb. 16 – Paul Levesque (L & CA);
Dawn Levesque (CA)
- Feb. 23 – Karla Kirkwood-Johnson (L);
Connie & Terry Langston (CA)

BACK DOOR GREETERS for FEBRUARY

- Feb. 2 – Joe Geerts
- Feb. 9 – Vicki McAlister
- Feb. 16 – Gary Gross
- Feb. 23 – Linda Chase

COUNTERS for FEBRUARY

- Feb. 2 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase
- Feb. 9 – Charlene Lundstrom & Vicki McAlister
- Feb. 16 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel
- Feb. 23 – Paul Levesque & Barb Geerts

USHERS/GREETERS for FEBRUARY

- Feb. 2 – Vicki McAlister & Volunteer
- Feb. 9 – Bruce & Val Daniel
- Feb. 16 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase
- Feb. 23 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross

ALTAR GUILD for MARCH

Bruce & Val Daniel

**LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST.
R FEBRUARY**

- March 2 – Val Daniel (L & CA);
Bruce Daniel (CA)
- March 9 – Joe Geerts (L);
Gary Gross (CA)
- March 16 – Judi Ingerson (L) ; Paul Levesque &
Terry Langston (CA)
- March 23 – Renee Ketelsen (L & CA);
Connie Langston (CA)
- March 30 – Sandy Ohrn (L & CA);
Sheila Doering (CA)

BACK DOOR GREETERS for FEBRUARY

- March 2 – Connie Langston
- March 9 – Renee Ketelsen
- March 16 – Sandy Ohrn
- March 23 – Terry Langston
- March 30 – Pam Gross

COUNTERS for FEBRUARY

- March 2 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston
- March 9 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston
- March 16 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase
- March 23 – Charlene Lundstrom & Vicki McAlister
- March 30 – Paul Levesque & Barb Geerts

USHERS/GREETERS for FEBRUARY

- March 2 – Kirk Ketelsen
- March 9 – David Peterson & Terry Langston
- March 16 – Vicki McAlister & Volunteer
- March 23 – Bruce & Val Daniel
- March 30 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase