

Calvary Courier

February 2024

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor,

³⁶As [Jesus] rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. ³⁷As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, ³⁸saying,

*"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"*

*³⁹Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." ⁴⁰He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."
(Luke 19: 36-40)*

Over the last five years or so I've often thought about this passage. Almost daily during the Covid-19 years, I would hear people complain that because congregations weren't gathering in person, the church was going to die. Since the Covid restrictions have ended, I continue to hear people bemoaning the death of the church because of a lack of new members, or a lack of young families, or financial shortfalls, or any number of reasons. And when I hear these dire prognostications, I think about Jesus' retort to the Pharisees, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Yes, the church may very well look different in the future. As members of St. James and Calvary are aware, the days of one pastor serving one congregation are waning. Worship attendance is smaller. Finances are tighter. Likewise, there may not be a Sunday School or confirmation classes because parents of younger children may not find the institution of the church important or being a part of

a worshiping community a priority. There are all kinds of things that seem to be threatening the existence of congregations.

But that does not mean that the Word of God will be silenced. The gospel will be proclaimed, even if God must raise up stones to shout it out.

I believe that people of Calvary and St. James are a shining example of the gospel not being silenced.

- Despite the challenges that each congregation faces, we continue to worship faithfully and see some growth in the number of people worshiping with us.
- Though they may not be young families, each congregation has received new members in the past year.
- We continue to provide love and support for our members in all of life's ups and downs.
- We share the love of God in tangible ways through meals for those who suffer food insecurity or may be homeless.
- Quilts, lap robes, hats, mittens and school kits have been shared with shut-ins, nursing home residents, the homeless, and those in need both locally and around the world.
- We've given a hand up to those who find adequate housing a challenge in our support of Habitat for Humanity.
- We've served our community by picking up litter.
- Through synod mission support we've supported the creation of new congregations, helped develop new leaders for the church, worked to fight injustice and share the gospel throughout the country and around the world.
- With special gifts we have sought to alleviate the suffering of our brothers and sisters around the globe when disaster has struck.
- And the list goes on.

Indeed, even though it may seem like the forces of the world are eroding the mission of the church, the work of our congregations are a sure sign that the gospel will not and cannot be silenced.

I have no doubt that into the next generation our congregations will look different. But I am also confident, while we may not look the same, the word and work of God will continue through us in whatever form our institution may take. God will not be silenced, even if God must raise up stones to shout it out.

Thank you for being a part of God's mission and God's voice through St. James and Calvary.

In Christ,
Pastor Knowles



Ash Wednesday

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES FEBRUARY 14

Services will be held at:

Noon – at Calvary

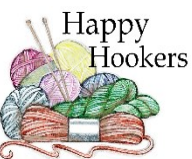
7:00 pm – at St. James in Rock Island

HELP NEEDED FOR LENTEN LUNCHES....

This year, as in the past, we would like to serve Lenten Lunches. We are asking for volunteers to pick a Wednesday to serve. There is a sign-up sheet in the Upper Room. The meals do not have to be fancy.



The dates are: Feb. 21 & 28; March 6,13,20



HAPPY HOOKERS January 31 & February 28

The Happy Hookers will be meeting on Wednesday, January 31 and February 28 at 9:30 a.m. We will begin working on projects for 2024. 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.



Happy Birthday to:

- 2 – Rick Ohrn
- 6 – Connie Jensen
- 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

CALVARY'S PRAYER LIST

The following individuals need to be uplifted in prayer: Rev. Larry & Linda Conway, home recuperating, Betty Clark, Gerald Schroeder, Roger Thorsvold, Erik Swanberg, John McAlister and family, Christian Griebel, Cindy Pham, Bob & Beth Fuller, Tammy Crynes..



SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

February 11 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.

MARCH Newsletter Deadline Tuesday, February 13



All articles for the February newsletter should be emailed to the church office or placed in my box by **Tuesday, February 13**. The February Newsletter will be mailed or placed in your mailboxes on Thursday, February 22.

CALVARY CARETAKER CREW – February 21

February 21 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.



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

♥ **From Gisele Richardson:** Dear Friends, I want to thank you for the lovely quilt you gave me and also for coming to sing those familiar Christmas carols. It was a real pleasure to see all of you.

♥ **From Betty Clark:** To My Friends at Calvary, Thank you for remembering me at Christmas time with the many cards and carolers. I appreciated your thoughtfulness and look forward to seeing everyone soon.

♥ **From Karen and Roger Thorsvold:** Roger and I want to thank the Happy Hookers for their beautiful Christmas card, treats, and the beautiful quilt. The quilt will surely keep Roger warm as he starts radiation treatments and chemotherapy at the University of Iowa. Also, thanks for the many prayers being said in Roger's name, and please keep them coming.

♥ **From Ann Donahue:** It was a pleasure to see the carolers and hear favorite Christmas songs. Also, thanks to Hookers for thinking of me with the beautiful quilt. Best Wishes to all for a healthy and Happy New Year.

♥ **From Cincy Pham:** Thank to the Happy Hookers for the blanket and to the carolers. What a wonderful surprise. God Bless all of you in our church family.

♥ **From Mark Slater:** Dear members of Happy Hookers: My mother Vera Slater at Friendship Manor (memory care) wanted me to write a thank you note to you. She loved the lap blanket and scarf. It was very thoughtful of you!

♥ **From Shirley Cooper:** Thank you so very much for the lovely crocheted lap blanket. It is perfect to use in my wheelchair. These ladies have a wonderful talent and a giving heart.

♥ **From Café on Vine:** Thank you for the gift of \$348.12 to assist Café On Vine. We are grateful for your generous support as we partner to feed the hungry of our community.

♥ **From King's Harvest Ministries:** Thank you for your recent donation. Your gift was an act of love that will make a significant difference to support our mission of helping those who are struggling. On behalf of everyone at King's Harvest Ministries,

please know you are a special blessing for giving from the heart and helping make lives better one person at a time.

♥ **From King's Harvest Pet Rescue:** On behalf of the homeless dogs and cats, puppies and kittens you are helping save, thank you for generous donation to King's Harvest Pet Rescue. Your caring support allows us to continue our mission to save the animals that are desperate for a loving home in order to survive and thrive. Once again, thank you so much for giving to King's Harvest Pet Rescue where your kindness makes all the difference. You are helping us create a whole new year of happy endings.

♥ **From Lutheran Social Services of Illinois:** Your gift of \$380.00 for Moline Foster Care Christmas gifts to LSSI provides hope for the 42,000 people we serve each year. Together with your support, we help children visit their parents in prison, seniors get in-home assistance with daily chores, adults living with disabilities learn how to exercise and eat healthy, a child find a loving foster home, a person suffering addiction get treatment, and more. Your donation will help those we service immediately and lift them up to reach their full, God-given potential. Thank you for remembering LSSI with your gift. It is a blessing and a privilege to serve alongside you.

♥ **From Bethany:** Thank you for supporting Bethany for Children & Families! Children are our future. Bethany's goal is to make sure that the infants, children, youth, and families in the agency's care are safe, healthy, educated, and nurtured. Your generous gift of \$348.12 helps Bethany achieve its mission of keeping children safe, strengthening families, and building healthy communities. Thank you for your donation.

♥ **From ELCA:** Thank you for your generous gift of \$100.00 to ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) through ELCA Good Gifts. Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

♥ **From YouthHope** Thank you for providing \$193.33 to bring youth HOPE! Your commitment and investment in the lives of kids and teens is having a life-long impact! We are so grateful for you and appreciate all the ways you support this ministry.

♥ **From River Bend Food Bank:** Thank you for your recent gift of \$348.12 to support Moline HDS Pantry. Because of you, children can focus on schoolwork and on growing into thriving adults.



**VALENTINE LUNCHEON
FEBRUARY 7 At 11:30 a.m.**

All Church Valentine Luncheon on Wednesday, February 7 at 11:30 a.m. in the Upper Room. You are welcome to invite guests. Come for lunch, fun and fellowship. Reservations appreciated, but not required. Free will offering. Please sign up in the Narthex or Upper Room. Call reservations in to Margo Miller (309) 738-1008 or Sue Knipe (309) 738-0415.



**SERVING at CAFÉ ON VINE
MARCH 2**

Watch for the sign-up sheet in the narthex for serving lunch on March 2. We will need food items and workers for Friday, March 1 for prepping the meal and then on Saturday, March 2 for serving the meal. **Please Save these future dates in 2024 for Café on Vine:** May 4, July 27, and November 9.

**BASEMENT LADIES at CIRCA 21 – APRIL 17
RESERVATION DEADLINE – MARCH 24**

Interested in an entertaining afternoon? Then join the group going to see *Church Basement Ladies* at Circa 21 on April 17, 2024. Tickets are \$50.00 each and include the show and a plated dinner. The doors open at 11:45 a.m. and the Bootleggers preshow starts at 12:45 p.m. We have 44 seats reserved. More seats *might* be available if needed. Reservation deadline is March 24 (Palm Sunday). Reservations can be made by submitting your name along with your phone number.

**GISELE RICHARDSON – TURNS 100
SURPRISE CARD SHOWER**



On March 1, Gisele Richardson will turn 100. We would like to *surprise* her with a “shower” of cards. Her address is: New Perspective #300 – 1900 10th St., Silvis, IL 61282. (Gisele received her newsletter without this article).

**YOUTH HOPE TRIVIA NIGHT
FEBRUARY 3 – Doors open at 5 p.m.**

YouthHope is holding a Trivia Night on Saturday night on February 3. \$13/person or \$100/Team of 8. Doors open at 5 p.m. Trivia begins at 6 p.m. Top teams will be announced at 8 p.m. Outside food is permitted but please NO outside beverages. We will have multiple drink stations with water, soda, hot cocoa and coffee. Parking is available around the center, and a shuttle will be provided as needed. All proceeds from the night benefit YouthHope programs for at-risk kids and teens. If interested, please call (309) 762-4577 or www.YOUTHHOPEQC.org.



Good advice from our Parish Nurse, Becki Maxson:

GOOD POSTURE

Good posture helps your heart fill easier; your lungs expand better and helps blood flow to our brains more efficiently. 2-3 times a day stand with your heels, bottom, shoulders and head pressed against a wall for 30 seconds. This will remind you how it feels to stand upright and help your body recognize good posture. Hold your cell phone at eye level when texting, adjust your computer so you are not looking down and at the grocery store don't lean over on the cart, stand upright. (your mother would be proud of your good posture!)

PROTECT YOURSELF

It is always acceptable to wear a mask to protect yourself and others, especially when you are in a crowded situation. It's not too late to get the latest COVID booster, RSV vaccine or Flu shot if you haven't already done so. Studies show that over the counter Vitamin C and Zinc can help boost your immune system (look it up and check with your doctor).





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. FEBRUARY

- Feb. 4 – Barb Geerts (L);
Joe Geerts & Terry Langston (CA)
- Feb. 11 – Sandy Ohrn (L & CA);
Renee Ketelsen (CA)
- Feb. 18 – Ruth Laabs (L & CA);
Val Daniel (CA)
- Feb. 25 – Deb Faith (L & CA);
Val Daniel (CA)

BACK DOOR GREETERS for FEBRUARY

- Feb. 4 – Deb Faith
- Feb. 11 – Renee Ketelsen
- Feb. 18 – Joe Geerts
- Feb. 25 – Sandy Ohrn

COUNTERS for FEBRUARY

- Feb. 4 – Paul Levesque & Barb Geerts
- Feb. 11 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel
- Feb. 18 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston
- Feb. 25 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston

USHERS/GREETERS for FEBRUARY

- Feb. 4 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase
- Feb. 11 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross
- Feb. 18 – CKirk Ketelsen
- Feb. 25 – David Peterson & Terry Langston

ALTAR GUILD for MARCH

Val & Bruce Daniel

LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. MARCH

- March. 4 – Paul Levesque (L & CA);
Dawn Levesque (CA)
- March 10 – Karla Kirkwood-Johnson (L);
Joe Geerts & Gary Gross (CA)
- March 17 – Margo (L & CA);
Sheila Doering (CA)
- March 24 – Val Daniel (L & CA); - Palm Sunday
Bruce Daniel (CA)
- March 31 – Renee Ketelsen (L & CA) - EASTER
Sandy Ohrn (CA)

BACK DOOR GREETERS for MARCH

- March 4 – Linda Chase
- March 10 – Gary Gross
- March 17 – Barb Geerts
- March 24 – Vicki McAlister – Palm Sunday
- March 31 – Pam Gross - EASTER

COUNTERS for MARCH

- March 4 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase
- March 10 – Charlene Lundstrom & Vicki McAlister
- March 17 – Connie Langston & Barb Geerts
- March 24 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel – Palm Sunday
- March 31 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston - EASTER

USHERS/GREETERS for MARCH

- March 4 – Vicki McAlister
- March 10 – Bruce & Val Daniel
- March 17 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase
- March 24 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross – Palm Sunday
- March 31 – Kirk Ketelsen - EASTER

February 2024

January '24							March '24						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6							1	2
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
28	29	30	31				24	25	26	27	28	29	30
							31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2	3 YOUTH HOPE TRIVIA NIGHT 5:00 PM - DOORS OPEN
4 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship	5 9:00 am Flexiable Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	6	7 VALENTINE LUNCHEON 11:30 am - Valentine Luncheon Upper Room All are Welcome	8 9:00 am Flexiable Flexors	9	10
11 SOUPER BOWL SUN COLLECTING LOOSE CHANGE 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship	12 9:00 am Flexiable Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	13 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 1:00 pm Church Council	14 ASH WEDNESDAY 12:00 pm Ash. Wed. Serv. - Calvary 7:00 pm Ash Wed Serv - St. James	15 9:00 am Flexiable Flexors 7:00 pm Quad City Coin Club - Erlander Hall	16	17
18 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship	19 9:00 am Flexiable Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	20	21 9:00 am Calvary Caretaker Crew 11:00 am Lenten Lunch - Calvary 12:00 pm Midweek Service. - Calvary 7:00 pm Midweek Service - St. James	22 NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTED 9:00 am Flexiable Flexors	23	24
25 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship	26 9:00 am Flexiable Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	27	28 9:30 am Happy Hookers 11:00 am Lenten Lunch - Calvary 12:00 pm Midweek Service. - Calvary 7:00 pm Midweek Service - St. James 6:30 pm Quad City Coin Club Officer Meeting	29	1 GISELE RICHARDSON TURNS 100 TODAY	2
3	Notes SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY is February 11th. We will be collecting loose change, bills and checks for Churches United VALENTINE LUNCHEON on February 7th at 11:30 a.m. All are welcomed to attend, including guests. REMEMBER - SURPRISE CARD SHOWER FOR GISELE RICHARDSON 100 BIRTHDAY ON MARCH 1					

