

# *Calvary Courier*

## *May 2024*

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran ELCA Church

From the Pastor:

I write this letter from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania where I am participating in a continuing education event. As most of you are well aware, Mary and I are frequent visitors to Gettysburg. We came to appreciate the place while I attended seminary here. As you can well imagine, Gettysburg has changed over the last 37 years since I graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg. Some of our favorite sites remain the same. And there have been some improvements as the movement to restore much of the battlefield to the way it was in 1863 has progressed.

One change, however, that is not for the better, is the prevalence of “Ghost Tours.” I know that they have become popular in tourist towns all over. We see them offered, for instance, when we visit Galena, Illinois. But personally, I find the ghost tours here in Gettysburg offensive. I suppose I think promoting the loss of life that took place here in some commercial “paranormal” enterprise is disrespectful of the people who suffered here during the first three days of July, 1863.

That being said, I have a framed art print in my study at home entitled “Days of Glory” by Lloyd Garrison. The painting depicts two very old Civil War veterans at the “High Water Mark” in Gettysburg. (I won’t take the time to explain the significance of the site here. If you want to know more, just ask me.) I imagine they are there for perhaps the 50th anniversary of the battle. Surrounding them are what I would describe as “shadows” of the soldiers who fought alongside them on July 3, 1863. They are not ghosts, but more like the memories of those men.

And I will admit that as I have wandered the Gettysburg battlefield over the last 37 years, I, too, have had a sense of the people who lived and died in these streets, fields, homes and buildings (including one in the middle of the seminary campus). They are not ghosts, but they are the presence of the people who fought for the preservation of the union, the ones who “gave the last full measure of devotion” (from Lincoln’s Gettysburg Address). Their presence is somehow still with us a reminder of their sacrifice that shaped who we are and what we have today.

I get that same sense in the quiet moments I have when I’m in our sanctuaries. As I sit in the pews in what most observers would see as an empty sanctuary, I get the distinct impression that I’m not alone. I sense the presence of those in the faith who have gone before me. I feel the presence of my teachers and mentors. I feel the presence of those who physically labored to raise funds for the building if not physically raise the building itself. I feel the presence of Sunday School teachers and confirmation instructors, of pastors and choir members and musicians and worship leaders and youth group leaders. I feel the presence of those who in their own way gave the last full measure of devotion in order for us to gather together in worship and service of our Lord. We are indeed surrounded by, not ghosts, but by what Paul refers to as a great cloud of witnesses.

I am always thankful for that unexplainable but very real presence of those saints who came before us and laid the foundation of faith for us, who helped to shape us into who we are today. We may not see them, but I know they are here.

In Christ,  
*Pastor Knowles*

MAY



Birthdays and Anniversaries

**Happy Birthday to:**

- 2 – Kirk Ketelsen
- 6 – Teri Griebel
- 9 – David Peterson
- 18 – Candice Tennison
- 23 – Dereck Chase
- 27 – Patricia Cornelius
- 28 – LaVerne Knipe

**Happy Anniversary to:**

- 4 – Robert & Linda Miner (1963)
- 11 – Gene & Betsy Untiedt (1952)
- 24 – Gary & Pam Gross (1980)
- 25 – Jerry & Pat Cornelius (1968)
- Bruce & Val Daniel (1974)
- 28 – Randy & Ann Bowser (1973)

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS  
IN JUNE**

Teri will be working the first eleven days in June – June 1 through June 11, as hip surgery is scheduled for June 13<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Knowles will be on vacation June 24 through June 30. The office will be closed that week.

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**JUNE/JULY COMBINED NEWSLETTER  
Deadline – Tuesday, May 14**

**Please Note** – this will be a combined newsletter for June/July. All articles should be emailed to the church office or placed in my box by **Tuesday, May 14**. The combined Newsletter will be mailed or placed in your mailboxes on Thursday, May 25.



**KNIT-A-BIT –  
APRIL 30 & MAY 28**

Knit-A-Bit will be meeting on the Last Tuesday of the month - April 30 & May 28.



**We offer our sympathies and prayers** to Vicki McAlister and family on the passing of her ex-husband, John. John passed away on Monday, April 1.

**We also offer our sympathies and prayers** to family and friends of Erik Swanberg. Erik passed away on April 14. Funeral services were held at Calvary on Thursday, April 18. May each of you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ



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

**from Betty Clark:** Thank you to my friends at Calvary for all the beautiful cards and flowers. I miss you all. Your thoughtfulness warmed my heart.

❖ **from Churches United:** Thank you for your continued support of the missions and ministries of Churches United. We have received your \$160.83 donation for Moline Care Link. This enables us to keep helping those in need for rent and utility assistance for this are.

**COMBINED WORSHIP SERVICE  
MAY 26**

Please join with us and St. James as we worship together at Calvary's 10:30 am service. Our combined choirs have been working very hard on a rousing piece of Praise music.

**CALVARY CARE CREW** – CCC will meet at 9:00 on Wednesday May 15. All are welcome to come and work around the church cleaning or doing yard work. We will have fellowship and treats following our work.



**GRADUATE RECOGNITION**

If you have a member of your family graduating this year, please email me or send me the information and I will highlight in the June/July newsletter.



**On Easter Sunday,** we welcomed Walter Arthur Meter into God's family through baptism. Parents are Bob & Stacy Meter. Walter is the great-grandson of Bev Boyle. May God continue to bless you through the years.

**WORSHIP SERVICE MUSIC**

The **Prazin Hymn Trio** has been leading the worship services usually on the last Sunday of the month. This month, we will be leading worship on May 19. If you have a favorite Praise or Gospel song that you would like the trio to sing during prelude, please let us know.



**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.

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



Please look at the display in the narthex. Our donations will go toward buying boots like these, which will go to kids in Romania and Guatemala. It is very rainy and muddy where these kids live, and these boots will help keep the kids clean as they walk to and from school each day.

Each donation of \$15.00 will buy a pair of kids rain boots. Please place your donations of check or cash into a boot, or into the offering plate. (Checks can be made out to 'ACF' or 'Calvary')

Our drive will run through June 16th. See Greg Johnson with any questions. Thank you!



**CAFÉ ON VINE SERVING ON MAY 4**

The sign-up sheets are in the narthex for serving lunch on May 4. We will need food items and workers for Friday, May 3 for prepping the meal and then on Saturday, May 4 for serving the meal. If you are bringing food items, please bring them to the church no later than Friday, May 3. **Please Save these future dates for Café on Vine:** July 27 and November 9.

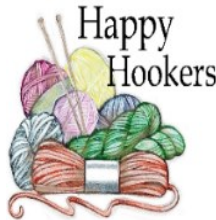
**WELCA MAY 7 at 11:00 a.m.**

WELCA will meet on Wednesday, May 7 at 11:00 a.m. Please bring items to share. The meeting will be short.



On **June 5** at 11:30 a.m., we will meet at Montana Jacks in Moline. Reservations appreciated but not required.

**HAPPY HOOKERS – MAY 29**



**Happy Hookers** will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 29. There is plenty of things to do without sewing a stitch. Come and join us for laughter, food and great fellowship. (Even a 4-year old enjoys coming – no better endorsement than that!)





# 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 MAY**

Judy Ingerson

### **LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. for 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 – Deb Faith (L & CA);  
Val Daniel (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

## **ALTAR GUILD for JUNE**

OPEN

### **LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. for JUNE**

June 2 – Renee Ketelsen (L & CA);  
Connie Langston (CA)  
June 9 – Joe Geerts (L & CA)  
Terry Langston (CA)  
June 16 – Deb Faith (L & CA)  
Val Daniel (CA)  
June 23 – Gary Gross (L & CA);  
Bruce Daniel (CA)  
June 30 – Val Daniel (L & CA);  
Sheila Doering (CA)

### **BACK DOOR GREETERS for JUNE**

June 2 – Pam Gross  
June 9 – Connie Langston  
June 16 – Barb Geerts  
June 23 – Terry Langston  
June 30 – Deb Faith

### **COUNTERS for JUNE**

June 2 – Paul Levesque & Barb Geerts  
June 9 – Charlene Lundstrom & Vicki McAlister  
June 16 – Deb Faith & Volunteer  
June 23 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston  
June 30 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston

### **USHERS/GREETERS for JUNE**

June 2 – Bruce & Val Daniel  
June 9 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase  
June 16 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross  
June 23 – Kirk Ketelsen  
June 30 – David Peterson & Terry Langston