

Calvary Courier

September 2024

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor,

By the time I entered seminary in the fall of 1983 I was a young (23 years-old), confident (cocky?) Christian. I had been very active in worship and church-life since I was 14. I graduated from college with a major in religion. I had been leading Bible studies at camp for several years. I figured I knew it all.

I'm not sure how many class sessions into my seminary career I had attended (but I could have counted them on one hand) before so much of what I thought I knew had been challenged. It was like I had been knocked upside my head. I came to understand the Holy Spirit had opened my eyes to new and exciting understandings of God and the way I saw God working in the world.

And that was not the last time the Holy Spirit knocked me upside the head. So often throughout my ministry, at times when I was confident with how I understood God and what God wanted me to do, the Holy Spirit did some "course correcting."

Perhaps the most gut-wrenching example came about 25 years ago. I had been approached by an adult visitor to the congregation about being baptized. We set up a time to talk. Then, during the course of the worship, he came to the altar rail to receive communion. Well, I had always understood, based on scripture and church teachings, that baptism was a prerequisite to participation in holy communion. So, with his hand out at the rail to receive the bread, I whispered to him that he had to be baptized first. I denied him communion.

In following what I believed to be God's rules I had thrown a stumbling block in front of new believer. He, in fact, never returned to church and I wouldn't be

surprised if he never attended any other church, anywhere, ever. And for no good reason. Communion is a meal that draws us into and makes us a part of the *one* body of Christ. Yet what I had done excluded him. I felt sick, like I'd been punched in the gut.

In the time that followed, I came to believe that it was the Spirit that punched me in the gut, and then opened my eyes to the reality that Holy Communion is an offering from God for all people. God can be gracious to whomever God chooses, whether they are baptized or not.

Since those early seminary days and throughout my ministry I have tried to be open to the leading of the Spirit. I don't always know everything. (In fact, the longer I'm in ministry the more I realize how much I don't know.) And regularly the Holy Spirit opens my eyes (or punches me in the gut) to see things in a completely different way.

My encouragement to you, then, is to always keep your hearts and minds open to the leading of the Spirit. God is not done with us yet, and we always have more to learn.

"The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." (John 3:8)

In Christ,
Pastor Knowles



Happy Birthday to:

- 1 - Christina Brasmer
- 2 – Fran Freeze
- 4 – Dave Griebel
- 5 – Debbie Faith
- 7 – Linda Nelson
- 8 – Ruth Laabs

- 11 – Mark Jackson
- 12 – Lennon Miller
- 17 – Gary Gross
- 19 – Mary Knowles
- 20 – Randy Bowser
- 27 – Christine Mellgren

Happy Anniversary to:

- 14 – Kirk & Renee Ketelsen (1991)
- 17 – Paul & Dawn Levesque (1988)
- 20 – Kurt & Lisa Dicks (1986)

**REMINDER - SEPTEMBER 1
JOINT SERVICE AT ST. JAMES**

On September 1, worship will be held at 10:30 a.m. at St. James in Rock Island. There will be NO SERVICE at Calvary that morning. As St. James filled our pews on May 26, let US fill the pews at St. James.

PASTOR ON VACATION



Pastor will be on vacation from September 2 through September 16. Pastor Chris Lee from First Lutheran, Rock Island will be on call.

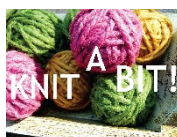
WELCA MEETING

Let's meet at Montana Jacks for our first meeting this year. On Wednesday, September 4 at 11:30 a.m. We have invited the ladies from St. James – everyone is welcome to join us.



KNIT – A- BIT

Knit-A-Bit will resume on the Tuesday, September 24.



We offer our sympathies and prayers to Charlene Lundstrom and family on the passing of her uncle, Ken Hay. He passed away on July 27,2024.

May you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ



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

❖ Thank you to my Calvary Angels – you have no idea how much I appreciate all the prayers and help you given to me, while undergoing cataract surgery. From car rides to and from appointments, especially to Val Daniel, the phone calls and cards I received – to other little things you have done. A simple thank you does not seem to be enough, yet in God's eyes, it is. May God keep you and bless you, each and every day.

----Jacki Dooley

CALVARY CARETAKER CREW (CCC)

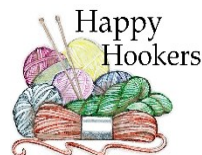
September 18

Wednesday September 18. CCC will meet at 9:00 to do some light cleaning around the church and yard work weather permitting. We work about an hour and then enjoy some food and fellowship. Everyone is welcome to join us.

**AUGUST DEADLINE
Wednesday, September 18**



Please have your articles to me no later than September 18. You may email them, place them in my box or call the church office.



**HAPPY HOOKERS
September 27**

The Happy Hookers will be meeting on Wednesday, September 25 at 9:30 a.m. Along the great fellowship and delicious snacks. The group continues to create quilts and lap robes and other items for people in need throughout the community. Everyone is welcome.

We have a date for Lunch

On Wednesday, September 11

Calvary volunteers will be providing lunch for the Habitat for Humanity volunteers. We'll have the address later. Meanwhile, we need volunteers for the food and serving. There's a sign-up sheet on the table in the narthex, or you can tell me or Pam Gross.

Here's your chance to help with something positive on 9/11. With our hands we'll be doing God's work.

Thank you, Pastor Q



St. James-Calvary Joint Activities

Pastor Q planning a new Discussion Group
BOOK DISCUSSIONS:

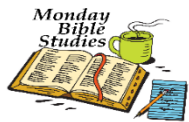
Two important resolutions were passed at Synod Assembly. One calls for us to take a stand against Christian Nationalism and the other is a step in the direction of becoming a Reconciling in Christ Synod.

If you're 'in the dark' about these two topics, you may not be alone. If you'd like to learn more about them and discuss these important issues with others in our congregation, please join us when our new Discussion

Group convenes in mid-September.

Thank you, Pastor Q

**CHURCH COUNCIL – will meet on
September 17 at 1:00 p.m.**



Monday Morning Bible Study

Monday morning Bible Study begins September 23 at 10:00 am. We will meet in person in the Upper Room at

Calvary, or you can participate via Zoom. Contact Pastor for the Zoom link.

Rescue Mission Meal



St. James will serve the evening meal at the Christian Family Care Center on Wednesday, September 11th.

St. James will buy the ham and needed supplies. If you would like to help, we need volunteers to serve, and prepare crockpot beans, cheesy potatoes and donations of cookies, brownies, or cake for this meal.

A sign-up sheet is on the info table in the narthex. Meet in the church kitchen on the 11th at 5:30 pm or bring prepared items before that time. Calvary members are invited to help serve. If interested, please contact Trish at St. James, (309) 726-0503.

WELCA NEWS

The WELCA ladies decided, last winter, that we don't use a couple of the small refrigerators enough to warrant having to pay to run them.



We then started a discussion about replacing the dishwasher in the Upper Room because of its age. Then, it stopped working and within a couple of weeks, the stove started having issues. We voted to replace the appliances in the Upper Room and to turn in a couple of refrigerators to MidAmerican for \$50 each. We now have all new appliances in the Upper Room!

WELCA ANNUAL CONVENTION

Our Annual convention will be held on **Saturday, September 21** from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, 250 E. Street South, Kewanee, IL. Our program will be – God Is Our Refuge

If you need more information or would like to attend, please see or call Sue Knipe. A flyer has been posted in the Upper Room.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF IL

CHIP in FORE CHILDREN

Charity Golf Outing on
Saturday, September 14, at 1:00 p.m.

Join fellow golfers, foster parents, and community members for a day of friendly competition for a cause. Funds raised will benefit local foster care programs. For more information, please see the bulletin board in the hallway.



Please read over carefully the two-month schedules. If you are unable to full-fill your commitment, please find a replacement and let Teri know in the office

ALTAR GUILD for SEPTEMBER

Barb Geerts & Connie Langston

LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. for SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1 – WORSHIPING AT ST. JAMES

- Sept. 8 – Barb Geerts (L) ;
Deb Faith & Renee Ketelsen (CA)
- Sept. 15 – Sandy Ohrn (L & CA)
Sheila Doering (CA)
- Sept. 22 – Joe Geerts (L & CA);
Connie Langston (CA)
- Sept. 29 - Karla Kirkwood-Johnson (L)
Bruce & Val Daniel (CA)

BACK DOOR GREETERS for SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1 – WORSHIPING AT ST. JAMES

- Sept. 8 – Pam Gross
- Sept. 15 – Deb Faith
- Sept. 22 – Vicki McAlister
- Sept. 29 – Connie Langston

COUNTERS for SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1 – WORSHIPING AT ST. JAMES

- Sept. 8 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel
- Sept. 15 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston
- Sept. 22 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston
- Sept. 29 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase

USHERS/GREETERS for SEPTEMBER

Sept. 1 – WORSHIPING AT ST. JAMES

- Sept. 8 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross
- Sept. 15 – Kirk Ketelsen
- Sept. 22 – David Peterson & Terry Langston
- Sept. 29 – Vicki McAlister & Ruth Laabs

ALTAR GUILD for OCTOBER

Judi Ingerson & Sandy Ohrn

LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. for OCTOBER

- Oct. 6 – Paul Levesque (L & CA);
Dawn Levesque (CA)
- Oct. 13 – Val Daniel (L & CA);
Deb Faith (CA)
- Oct. 20 – Renee Ketelsen (L & CA);
Connie Langston (CA)
- Oct. 27 - Karla Kirkwood-Johnson (L)
Bruce Daniel & Gary Gross (CA)

BACK DOOR GREETERS for OCTOBER

- Oct.. 6 – Renee Ketelsen
- Oct. 13 – Gary Gross
- Oct. 20 – Linda Chase
- Oct. 27 – Terry Langston

COUNTERS for OCTOBER

- Oct.. 6 – Charlene Lundstrom & Vicki McAlister
- Oct. 13 – Paul Levesque & Barb Geerts
- Oct. 20 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel
- Oct. 27 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston

USHERS/GREETERS for OCTOBER

- Oct.. 6 – Bruce & Val Daniel
- Oct. 13 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase
- Oct. 20 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross
- Oct. 27 – Kirk Ketelsen