

# Calvary Courier

APRIL 2025

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

## From the Pastor

There is a banner hanging on the wall of my office at Calvary which was presented to me in 2013 in recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination. On the banner, which was created by Calvary's Happy Hookers, are pictures of the five places which I served in the course of my first 25 years of ministry.

Across the top of the banner are Mt. Calvary (Lavansville, PA) and Mt. Zion (Bakersville, PA). I served these two congregations as my first call from 1987-1992. The middle of the banner is occupied by a photo of the entrance sign at Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center (Oregon, IL) where I served as Program Director from 1992-1996. On the bottom of the banner are pictures of Immanuel (Earlville, IL), where I served from 1996-2009, and Calvary, where I began my call in 2010. Missing from the banner, obviously, is St. James, where I began four years after the creation of the banner.

As I look at those pictures I see so much more than the buildings. Each call brought with it the excitement of new possibilities. Each picture calls to mind so many people with whom I developed relationships during my tenure at those ministry sites. But each subsequent picture, while promising something new, also meant the sadness of leaving behind those relationships and good memories.

However, there would have be no new beginnings without the endings of something old.

Jesus makes a similar statement in John's gospel when he says,

"The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (John 12:20-24)

Jesus in these verses is talking about the necessity of his death. His time has come, he tells his disciples. With his death, there is the promise of something new and wonderful. Like the grain of wheat, he must

die for there to be new life. This is the heart of the Easter message. With Jesus death he leaves behind the old world in order that the new creation may come.

The same thing can be said for us. There are times when, in order to have the new beginning, we must let the old thing die. That's true not only for us to have the new life of God's kingdom that Jesus promises through his death and resurrection, but for a variety of new possibilities in our life in this world.

Just as I had to be willing to let go of good, supportive relationships in Lavansville-Bakersville in order to have the new and wonderful experiences of ministry at LOMC, so too are there times when we must be willing to let go of things that are comfortable and familiar in order to have new possibilities in the future.

I think Easter is about so much more than life after death, it is about the possibility of a new life now after letting go of an old life.

So, as we approach the celebration of Easter, I invite you to consider what part of your old life you might need to let die in order to embrace the possibilities of a new life in Christ.

In Christ,

*Pastor Knowles*

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## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

### Maundy Thursday (April 17):

7:00 p.m. @ Calvary

### Good Friday (April 18):

Noon @ Calvary  
7:00 p.m. @ St. James

### EASTER (April 20):

8:00 a.m. @ St. James  
10:30 a.m. @ Calvary



**Happy Birthday to:**  
 1 – Carolyn Coulter  
 4 – Judy Nofsker  
 6 – John James Gross  
 7 – Greg Johnson  
 9 – Joe Geerts, Gene Untiedt,  
 10 – Marilyn Gross

15 - Randi Toft  
 18 – Erik Ohrn  
 19 – Jimmy Duncan

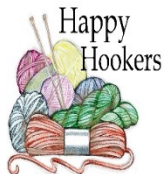
**WELCA SPRING ASSEMBLY  
 Saturday, March 29**

WELCA Spring Assembly will be March 29. Registration and refreshments will be at 9:00 a.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1330 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Moline. Please call by March 18 – 309-762-5173. Program at 9:30 a.m. Please join us for a presentation from Dr. Kit Ford updating us on the new facility and programs offered to children with Autism.

**JOINT SERVICE and LUNCH – MARCH 30**

On March 30, St. James will be joining us for worship. Following the service, we are having a sandwich and salad lunch in Erlander Hall. All are welcome. Meal is provided by Thrivent Financial.

**HAPPY HOOKERS - April 24**



Happy Hookers will meet at 9:30 a.m. on April 24. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy some sweet treats, coffee and great fellowship.

**NO FLEXORS**

Flexors will not meet the week of the sale – Monday, March 31 or Thursday, April 3.



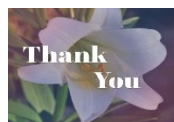
**REGARDING EASTER LILIES  
 DEADLINE – Monday, March 31**



If you would like to order an Easter Lily, for Easter, as there is no form in this newsletter, you may email the church with the name of person to be memorialized or honored to [secretary@calvarymoline.org](mailto:secretary@calvarymoline.org) or you may call me on my cell phone at [309-230-2284](tel:309-230-2284) no later than Monday, March 31. The cost is \$12.00. You may mail a check or include with your offering. ----Thank you, Teri



**We offer our sympathies and prayers** to Lisa Dicks, family and friends of Kurt. He passed away on February 23. Services were held at Esterdahl's on Thursday, February 27. **We also offer** our sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Eilene Peterson. Eilene passed away on March 23. May you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ



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

❖ Thank you to Pastor Knowles for visiting Kurt in the ICU, offering comfort and prayers. Also, his guidance and conducting Kurt's funeral service. Thanks to everyone who offered prayers, a hug, a card, words of comfort, a memorial gift, and serving the funeral luncheon.

---- My love and gratitude, Lisa Dicks  
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**EASTER CHOIR  
 REHEARSAL BEGINS APRIL 6**

Thank you to everyone who came to rehearsal on Sunday. Our next rehearsal is April 6. If you would like to hear the song – please go to JW Pepper and search Our Lord Is Risen! By Ruth Elaine Schram.

**May Newsletter Deadline**



All articles for the May newsletter should be emailed to the church office or placed in my box by **Tuesday, April 15**, for distribution on Sunday, April 27.

**CALVARY CARETAKER CREW - April 16**

April 16 at 9:00 a.m. – All are welcome to come and do some light cleaning around the church and then enjoy food and fellowship.



**MARK YOU CALENDARS!  
 CAFÉ ON VINE – APRIL 12**

The sign-up sheets are in the narthex for serving lunch on April 12. We will need food items and workers for Friday, April 11 for prepping the meal and then on Saturday, April 12 for serving the meal. If you are bringing food items, please bring them to the church no later than Friday, April 11.



## LENTEN SERVICES & LUNCHES

Services for Lent are as follows:

**Midweek Services:** Noon @ Calvary,  
7:00 p.m. @ St. James

The weekly topics for April are:

- April 2 – Individual Lament
- April 9 – Communal Lament

### LENTEN LUNCHES – for APRIL

Those who have signed up to serve Lenten Lunches during April are.

**April 2:** Pam Gross & Barb Geerts

**April 9:** Judi Ingerson & Sandy Ohrn

**NO WELCA MEETING ON APRIL 2 DUE TO LENTEN LUNCH AND SERVICE.**



### 2025 Water Filter Drive for Families in Romania and Guatemala

We will be collecting monetary donations which will go toward buying water filters and Bibles for families in Romania and Guatemala.

Many people in these countries have no source of clean drinking water. Starting in April, there will be a display in the narthex explaining how these water filters work. More information will be in the display, including pictures from my trip to Guatemala in April 2024. Please take a look! Thanks. Greg Johnson



### 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.**

**Please stay after lunch** on Sunday, March 30 to help set-up tables for our Basement Sale. Many hands make for short work.

**Remember – Monday, March 31** is the last day to bring any stuff you would like for us to sell. If you do happen to locate more items after Monday – YOU will have to price it.

Your help will be needed Monday, March 31 thru Saturday, April 5. It does not matter if it is for 1 hour, 1/2 day or all day. There will be a sign-up sheet for you to sign your name if you are willing to help.

#### SCHEDULE FOR SETTING UP & PRICING Sort & Price:

**Pricing:** Monday, March 31 through April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

If you have questions, please contact Sandy Ohrn – 309-373-8261 or Charlene Lundstrom 309-235-3245.

#### BASEMENT SALE LUNCH – APRIL 4 and APRIL 5

We are beginning our request for desserts for the Basement Sale. Everything is welcomed, but we will need pies – as they go very fast. If you would like to help defray the cost of the food we provide, please make checks payable to WELCA.

### REGARDING FUTURE OF THE EIGHT ELCA CHURCHES

A few months ago, Pastor shared with the members of St. James and Calvary that there have been ongoing conversations about the future of the eight ELCA congregations in Rock Island and Moline. Subsequently there have been two meetings with congregational leaders and interested members about what our future might look like. There is strong consensus that our current way of being the church, with each congregation existing independently, will not be sustainable. It is the same conclusion that Calvary and St. James reached 7 ½ years ago. From those conversations, there was an emphasis to begin to find ways for all eight congregations to strengthen our relationships. As a first step in that process, the pastors believe that the foundation of our life together in Christ should be celebrated in worship.

So, on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, all eight congregations will gather for worship in Augustana's Centennial Hall, tentatively set for 10:00 am. This will take the place of the Sunday worship services at all the participating congregations. Please plan to join this celebration of the Holy Spirit blowing into our lives in a new way.





# Volunteer Schedule

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 APRIL**

Barb Geerts and Connie Langston

## **LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. APRIL**

April 6 – Judy Ingerson (L);  
                   Connie & Terry Langston (CA)  
 April 13 – Paul Levesque (L & CA);  
                   Dawn Levesque (CA)  
**April 20** – Karla Kirkwood-Johnson (L);  
                   Joe Geerts & Gary Gross (CA)  
 April 27 – Jacki Dooley (L);  
                   Val & Bruce Daniel (CA)

## **BACK DOOR GREETERS for APRIL**

April 6 – Barb Geerts  
 April 13 – Dawn Levesque  
**April 20** – Linda Chase  
 April 27 – Connie Langston

## **COUNTERS for APRIL**

April 6 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel  
 April 13 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston  
**April 20** – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston  
 April 27 – Terry Langston

## **USHERS/GREETERS for APRIL**

April 6 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross  
 April 13 – Kirk Ketelsen  
**April 20** – David Peterson & Terry Langston  
 April 27 – Vicki McAlister & Volunteer

## **ALTAR GUILD for MAY**

Judi Ingerson and Linda Grace

## **LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. MAY**

May 4 – Barb Geerts (L);  
                   Deb Faith & Connie Langston (CA)  
 May 11 – Gordon Nelson (L);  
                   Gary Gross & Terry Langston (CA)  
 May 18 – Val Daniel (L & CA);  
                   Bruce Daniel (CA)  
 May 25 – Sandy Ohrn (L & CA);  
                   Sheila Doering (CA)

## **BACK DOOR GREETERS for MAY**

May 4 – Vicki McAlister  
 May 11 – Joe Geerts  
 May 18 – Jacki Dooley  
 May 25 – Gary Gross

## **COUNTERS for MAY**

May 4 – Charlene Lundstrom & Vicki McAlister  
 May 11 – Paul Levesque & Barb Geerts  
 May 18 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel  
 May 25 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston

## **USHERS/GREETERS for MAY**

May 4 – Bruce & Val Daniel  
 May 11 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase  
 May 18 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross  
 May 25 – Kirk Ketelsen