

Calvary Courier

November 2025

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor,

Oh, God! Why me?

Most of us have uttered, or at least thought, that plea at some point. Something has gone wrong in our lives. Or maybe something just hasn't gone the way we believed it should. And so, out of a sense of some perceived injustice in our lives, "Why, God," we wonder, "has this thing happened (or not happened) to me that I certainly don't deserve."

One of the most memorable devotions I ever heard began with that emphatic plea. *Oh, God! Why me?*

However, in the case of this particular devotion, the leader turned this phrase upside-down. She invited us to ask the question, "Oh, God! Why me?" and then consider something *good* that had happened to us that we didn't deserve. She encouraged us to look at the blessings of our lives and recognize them as gifts from a loving God who showers us with good gifts even though we may not deserve them, sinners that we are.

Oh, God! Why have you given me a loving family?

Oh, God! Why have you given me the gift of health?

Oh, God! Why have you given me the resources I need to have a place to live, clothes to wear and food to eat?

Oh, God! Why have you given me caring friends?

Oh, God! Why have you given me your love, mercy, and forgiveness?

Oh, God! Why have you given me the gift of life now and through death to eternity in your kingdom?

These are just a few of the blessings *I* have been given to which I might utter, "Oh, God! Why me?"

In this month in which we celebrate Thanksgiving, I invite you to generate your own list of blessings in response to the plea, "Oh, God! Why me?" Let this be a season in which we open our eyes and our hearts to recognize all the good that is around us and comes to us.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles

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CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2 – AFTER WORSHIP

On Sunday, November 2, following worship there will be an opportunity for Calvary members to discuss the *Statement of Declaration Regarding Rostered Ministry and Same Sex Relationships at Calvary*. This statement was adopted by the congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 31, 2010. The council believes that the congregation should review this statement and either reaffirm or rescind it at the annual meeting in January 2026. This is a discussion only meeting and no official action will be taken. Copies of the statement are available on the table in the narthex.



Happy Birthday to:

4 – Barb Geerts
11 – Allen Nofsker
12 – Viola Marie Bowser-Smith
13 – Paul Levesque
14 – Marianne Barnett
20 – Sharon Hough,
Ann Lundstrom,

24 – Annette Menke, Karyn Hurst
27 – Richard Strosahl

Happy Anniversary to:

1 – Teri & Dave Griebel (1974)
4 – Michael & Kelly Chase (2006)
15 – Barb & Joe Geerts (1980)



DAYLIGHT SAVING ENDS NOVEMBER 2

Daylight-Saving Time Ends

back 1 hour before going to bed.

It's That Time of Year Again to
"FALL BACK" on
NOVEMBER 2nd. Please
remember to turn your clocks

WELCA - WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

WELCA will meet Wednesday,
November 5 at 11:00 in the Upper Room.
Bring a food item to share. Friends
welcome. Volunteers for devotions
welcome.



CAFÉ ON VINE - NOVEMBER 8

The sign-up board is in the narthex for
food items and for serving lunch on
November 8.

We need helpers on Friday, November 7 at 9:30 a.m.
to fix the meal. We will need servers on Saturday,
November 8. Meet at church at 10:30 a.m. to head
over to Café on Vine. We serve from noon to 1:00
p.m.

CCC – CALVARY CARE CREW

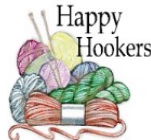
Calvary Caretaker Crew (CCC) will **NOT** meet in
November.



DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - NOVEMBER 11

Please note the date change for the
December Newsletter – is November 11. As Calvary
will be closed for two Sundays – November 30 and
December 7 – this will give everyone a chance to get
their newsletter on Sunday, November 23.

HAPPY HOOKERS NOVEMBER 19



Note Date Change - The Happy Hookers
will be meeting on Wednesday,
November 19 at 9:30 a.m. Along the
great fellowship and delicious snacks.
We will be getting our Christmas gifts ready.
Everyone is welcome



CHRISTMAS GIFTS to Foster Children

Deadline – November 30

Thank you to everyone who
has signed up to either buy a gift or give monetarily.
Once we receive the names, we will let you choose a
child. Please **DO NOT WRAP**. LSSI is also looking
for wrapping paper, gift bags and tags.

Gifts are due on November 30. You may either drop
your gift off gift to Calvary during the week or bring
to St. James on November 30.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! TWO JOINT WORSHIP SERVICES

● On **NOVEMBER 30**
at **ST. JAMES @ 10:30 a.m.** -
Calvary will be worshipping at St. James on
November 30 at 10:30 a.m.

● On **DECEMBER 7** at **FIRST LUTHERAN,
MOLINE @ 10:30 a.m.** – Calvary will be
worshipping at First Lutheran Church, Moline to
honor their 175th anniversary. The joint choir will be
singing at this service along with The Quad-City
Brass Quintet, and a timpanist from the QC
Symphony.

YOU ARE INVITED

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1 AT 1 P.M.

You are invited to a free, live presentation about famous activist and author Corrie ten Boon, on Saturday, November 1 at 1 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 208 E. Brayton Rd, Mt. Morris.

Corrie ten Boom, was a Dutch Christian Holocaust survivor who helped Jews escape the Nazis during WWII. Be inspired through Corrie's dramatic monologue, portrayed by Gale Haas, as she shares her experiences growing up in Haarlem, Holland, her family's work with the Dutch Resistance movement, and her powerful message of love and forgiveness.



DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

We will meet on Monday, December 1 at 11:00 a.m. (after Bible Study) to decorate the church. With many helpers it should take less than an hour. We can enjoy lunch and fellowship when we finish.

ANNUAL JOY OF CHRISTMAS WITH AUGUSTANA COLLEGE

**WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 3 @7:30 P.M.**

**AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN
CHURCH,
ANDOVER**

AUGUSTANA CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Students and faculty from Augustana College will join the community for this beautiful service of worship and music that starts at Augustana Lutheran Church in Andover. The Christmas story will be read in several different languages. The speaker will be announced.

The service concludes with a procession to the Jenny Lind Chapel, which is illuminated by many candles, and where Holy Communion will be celebrated to the strains of familiar Christmas carols.

Refreshments will be served in Luther Hall immediately after the service.



FOOD PANTRY DEADLINE – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16

Calvary is once again collecting food for the Youth Hope Thanksgiving Baskets. A list of items is on the Narthex table. Please place your items in the hallway boxes. We would like all items brought to church no later than Sunday, November 16th.

ANOTHER CHILD FOUNDATION 2026 Mission Trips

Another Child Foundation would like a few members from Calvary and St. James to take part on a 2026 mission trip. ACF and the host country's team handle all travel, housing, transportation, meals, and itinerary.

There are several options throughout the year that we can consider:

- Honduras - Community development and children's ministry
- Romania - Orphan care and youth outreach
- Romania - Humanitarian aid distribution
- Guatemala - Education and family support
- Guatemala - Children and family ministry
- Ukraine/Czech Republic - Evangelizing Europe & Refugee assistance efforts

There will (hopefully) be more information on a table in the Narthex, and eventually a question-and-answer session. You can see information about certain mission trips at the following website -- <https://anotherchild.managedmissions.com/OurTrips> s If you have any interest or questions, please contact me. I have been on some of these mission trips!

Thank you. Greg Johnson, member of Calvary (309-236-3394)





ORDER YOUR POINSETTIA

Deadline: December 4

**Now
\$10.00**

**Make checks payable to:
Calvary Lutheran Church**

Please complete the appropriate information:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Given by:



GIVE PRAISE

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

Directions: In each group, circle the word that doesn't belong. Then write the circled words on the lines below.

1 Give Take Grab	2 peanut praise pear	3 temple house LORD	4 proclaim past present	5 name boy lad	6 ruin destroy make
7 pine acorn known	8 train nations bus	9 done donut muffin	10 Sing Sleep Yawn	11 she him girl	12 sun praise moon
13 tell fast slow	14 red all blue	15 horrible dreadful wonderful	16 acts sisters aunts		

_____ to the _____, _____ his _____;
 _____ among the _____ what he has _____.
 _____ to _____, sing _____ to him; _____ of
 _____ his _____.

PSALM 105:1-2, NIV

Answer: Give, praise, LORD, proclaim, name, make, known, nations, done, sing, him, praise, tell, all, wonderful, acts



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

ATAR GUILD for NOVEMBER.

Connie Langston & Barb Geerts.

LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. for NOVEMBER

Nov. 2 – Judi Ingerson (L);
Connie & Terry Langston (CA)
Nov. 9 – Barb Geerts (L);
Joe Geerts & Gary Gross (CA)
Nov. 16 – Karla Kirkwood-Johnson (L);
Val & Bruce Daniel (CA)
Nov. 23 – Renee Ketelsen (L & CA)
Sheila Doering (CA)
NOV. 30 – SERVICE AT ST. JAMES (10:30 AM)

BACK DOOR GREETERS for NOVEMBER

Nov. 2 – Deb Faith
Nov. 9 – Pam Gross
Nov. 16 – Linda Chase
Nov. 23 – Sandy Ohrn
NOV. 30 – SERVICE AT ST. JAMES (10:30 AM)

COUNTERS for NOVEMBER

Nov. 2 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel
Nov. 9 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston
Nov. 16 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston
Nov. 23 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase
NOV. 30 – SERVICE AT ST. JAMES (10:30 AM)

USHERS/GREETERS for NOVEMBER

Nov. 2 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross
Nov. 9 – Kirk Ketelsen
Nov. 16 – David Peterson & Terry Langston
Nov. 23 – Vicki McAlister
NOV. 30 – SERVICE AT ST. JAMES (10:30 AM)

ALTAR GUILD for DECEMBER

Pam Ohrn & Sandy Ohrn

LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. for DECEMBER

**Dec. 7 – SERVICE AT FIRST LUTHERAN
MOLINE (10:30 AM)**
Dec. 14 – Paul Levesque (L & CA);
Dawn Leveque (CA)
Dec. 21 – Jacki Dooley (L):
Connie & Terry Langston (CA)
Dec. 24 – Val Daniel (L & CA); Bruce Daniel (CA)
Dec. 28 – **LESSONS & CAROLS /
NO COMMUNION ASSTS.**

BACK DOOR GREETERS for DECEMBER

**Dec. 7 – SERVICE AT FIRST LUTHERAN
MOLINE (10:30 AM)**
Dec. 14 – Dawn Levesque
Dec. 21 – Terry Langston
Dec. 24 – Linda Chase
Dec. 28 – Gary Gross

COUNTERS for DECEMBER

**Dec. 7 – SERVICE AT FIRST LUTHERAN
MOLINE (10:30 AM)**
Dec. 14 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel
Dec. 21 – Gary Gross & Terry Langsotn
Dec. 24 – **NO COUNTERS NEEDED**
Dec. 28 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langsotn

USHERS/GREETERS for DECEMBER

**Dec. 7 – SERVICE AT FIRST LUTHERAN
MOLINE (10:30 AM)**
Dec. 14 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase
Dec. 21 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross
Dec. 24 – Kirk Ketelsen
Dec. 28 – David Peterson & Terry Langston

November 2025

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	1 Daylight Saving Time Ends - Turn Clocks BACK 1 Hour
2 All Saints Sunday 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Congregational Meeting after worship	3 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	4	5 11:00 am WELCA, Upper Room	6 9:00 am Faithful Flexors	7 9:30 am workers needed to help fix food for Café on Vine	8 10:30 am - Meet at church to serve at CAFÉ ON VINE
9 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship	10 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	11 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 1:00 pm Church Council	12	13 9:00 am Faithful Flexors	14	15
16 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship FOOD PANTRY FOR YOUTH HOPE DUE TODAY	17 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	18	19 9:30 am Happy Hookers	20 NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTED 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 7:00 pm Quad City Coin Club - Erlander Hall	21	22
23 Christ the King Sunday 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship with the Prazin Hymn Trio	24 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	25	26	27 OFFICE CLOSED! 	28	29
30 1ST Sunday in Advent LSSI CHRISTMAS GIFTS DUE CALVARY CLOSED - 10:30 am Worship at St. James, Rock Island	1 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study 11:00 am Decorating the church for Christmas	Notes Poinsettia Orders are due in the office by <u>December 4th</u> . LSSI CHRISTMAS GIFTS DUE NOVEMBER 30 - SAME DAY WE WORSHIP AT ST. JAMES You may bring the gifts to St. James. REMINDER - DECEMBER 7TH - 10:30 AM WORSHIP SERVICE WILL BE AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, MOLINE				