

Calvary Courier

December 2025

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor,

Every year when I was a child, my father would pick up an Advent calendar for our family. It was a large, maybe 11" x 17", tri-folded sheet of card stock with a glittering Christmas image printed on it. Within the image were little doors numbered one to twenty-five, one door for each day of Advent and Christmas Day. Accompanying the calendar was a sheet with little poems for each day that gave a clue to what was pictured behind each door. I loved getting that Advent calendar every year as I and my brothers would take turns opening the doors. It was exciting, as a child, to be counting down the days to Christmas.

I believe that Advent calendar served a couple purposes.

First, the calendar helped build up the anticipation of the coming Christmas day. As each day passed the excitement grew, knowing that Christmas was imminent. I could literally see the number of days until Christmas was upon us. There was clearly an end to Advent and the arrival of the great day.

At the same time, I think the Advent calendar slowed down time for me. I could see that Christmas was 22 or 15 or 5 days away. I knew it was coming. But the calendar also served as reminder that Christmas was not yet here. It was in the future, and I needed to wait for it.

My memories of the Advent calendar reflect what I believe the season of Advent in the Christian church is about. Advent is a time of

building excitement and anticipation. In the Advent season we not only anticipate the arrival of Christmas, but also the arrival of the



reign of God through Jesus. Each day brings us closer to God's kingdom. That great day is coming and we can almost see it. Yet, at the same time, Advent is also a season when we acknowledge that it is not yet Christmas. God's reign is not quite here. And so, we must patiently (or impatiently) wait. We live in faith that God is coming (just as we know that Christmas is coming). But we also know that it is not here yet. And so, we wait. Excited and hopeful for what we know is coming, we wait.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles



MARK YOUR CALENDAR! TWO JOINT WORSHIP SERVICES

- Calvary will be worshipping at St. James on November 30 at 10:30 a.m. St. James is also having a potluck lunch.

There are sign-up sheets on the table in the Narthex. One for attending and one if you would like to bring a dish to share.

- **On DECEMBER 7 at FIRST LUTHERAN, MOLINE @ 10:00 a.m.** – Calvary will be worshipping at First Lutheran Church, Moline to honor their 175th anniversary. **Please note** the time

of the worship service has changed.



Happy Birthday to:

5 – Andrew Levesque,
9 – Dawn Levesque
10 – Charlene Lundstrom
13 – Karen Thorsvold
23 – Ian Mudd

25 – Sidney Mudd

29 – Jacki Dooley

Happy Anniversary to:

7 – Megan & Michael Necessary (2009)

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES



Special Christmas Services

Let us join together and celebrate the birth of Jesus by attending Calvary's Sunset service at 4:00 p.m. or St. James Evening service at 7:00 p.m.

HOLIDAY OFFICE HOURS

CHURCH OFFICE: Teri will be in the office beginning on Monday, **December 15 through December 18.** For December 22 and 23 – the office may or may not be open.



OFFICE CLOSED

DECEMBER 24 THROUGH JANUARY 3

The church office will be closed on December 24 through January 2 as Pastor Knowles and Teri Griebel will be on vacation. **On Monday, January 5** the office will reopen with both Pastor Knowles and Teri in the office. Pastor Knowles can be reached on his cell phone (815) 866-9595.



DEADLINE FOR POINSETTIA ORDERS IS DECEMBER 4

Please be sure and have your order forms into the office by **December 4.** The cost is \$10.00. You may send an email to secretary@calvarymoline.org. or call the church office at (309) 762-5423.



We offer our sympathies and prayers to Marilyn, Gary & Pam, and to family and the many friends of Jack Gross.

Jack passed away on Sunday, November 16. A memorial service will be held at Calvary on November 28 at 11:00 a.m. with visitation one (1) hour before. A luncheon will follow the service downstairs in Erlander Hall. May you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ.



ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23,

in your mailboxes will be an updated list of our mailbox names. You may bring Christmas cards in December for regular attending members and place them in their mailbox. Please mail cards to shut-ins, those who go out of town for the winter or do not attend regularly. We don't want them to sit in their mailboxes all year. Please put your return address on the envelope.

List of Shut-ins

Bev Boyle – B210
FRIENDSHIP MANOR
1209 21st Avenue
Rock Island, IL 61201

Betty Clark
4231 26th Ave
Moline, IL 61265

Karen & Roger Thorsvold
PO Box 23
Orion, IL 61273

Ted Jackson #334
35755 Detroit Rd
Avon, OH 44011

Marilyn Gross - #156
Ann Donahue - #261
Gisele Richardson - #300
NEW PERSPECTIVE
1900 10th Street
Silvis, IL 61282

Gene Untiedt
7215 N Oak St.
Davenport, IA
52806

A BIG THANK YOU TO FRAN & LEROY FREEZE

As a congregation, we would like to thank Fran and LeRoy Freeze for their dedication in picking up our Sunday morning donuts before church all these years. They have decided the time is right for them to retire from this service. Thank You.



Heartfelt Thanks

LSSI – GIFTS DUE BY NOVEMBER 30

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



Please be sure and put your child's number on the gifts and DO NOT WRAP! Also, if anyone has extra wrapping paper that you would like to donate to LSSI, please bring to church and place with the gifts received.



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.

WELCA LADIES CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON DECEMBER 3 @ 11:30 am AT PAGALO'S in MILAN



All Ladies of Calvary and St. James are invited for lunch at 11:30 am on Wednesday, December 3. Calvary has reserved large tables in the back room at Pagalo's, 119 1st Ave W, Milan. We will be ordering from the menu.



SERVICE COMMITTEE MEETING - DECEMBER 8

The service Committee will be meeting on Monday, December 8, at 11:15 a.m. to discuss service projects for 2026. If you are interested in getting involved and have ideas to discuss, please plan on attending. Everyone is welcome.

ALTAR GUILD MEETING DECEMBER 4

Altar Guild will meet at 10:00 am on Thursday, December 4, to discuss the 2026 schedule and other items. Anyone is welcome to join us.



A BIG THANK YOU

A Very Generous anonymous donation was given to our donut fund. This donation was greatly appreciated. Thank you.



JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE is December 11 for distribution on December 21. Please have your articles to me as soon as you can as this will be a short month. You may email: secretary@calvarymoline.org, put

your articles in my box or call the church office. Thanks, Teri



CHRISTMAS CAROLING SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13

We are Christmas Caroling with St. James on December 13 at 10:00 a.m. We will meet at Calvary to begin our journey. Everyone is welcome.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON DECEMBER 14 at 11:45 AM

We are having a Christmas Luncheon on December 14 at noon in Erlander Hall and have invited St. James to join us.



We are trying to get a count for ordering food. There is a sign-up sheet on the narthex table and in the upper room. You may also call the church office or send an email.

Free will donation accepted to help cover the cost of the food. WELCA ladies are asked to bring 2 dozen cookies

WELCA IS COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING UNTIL SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14

WELCA is collecting gloves & hats (K-12) for the kids at Youth Hope.

We're also taking donations of underwear and socks (sizes 4-6T) for Jefferson Early Learning Center.

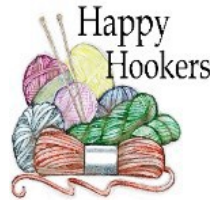
Please place these items in the totes in the Narthex by Sunday, December 14.

CCC - DECEMBER 17

CALVARY CARETAKER CREW will meet at 9:00 a.m. on December 17. After working for an hour, we will enjoy some fellowship and Holiday treats. Everyone is welcome.

HAPPY HOOKERS NO DECEMBER MEETING

Happy Hookers will not meet in December. Stay home where it is warm and enjoy your Christmas cookies. See you in January.



Don't Forget!



**ANNUAL REPORT
DEADLINE
MONDAY, JANUARY 5
ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25**

This year the Annual Report deadline is Monday, January 6. ALL REPORTS should be in the office or emailed to the church office by the deadline.

The reports should be out by Sunday, January 18 or before.



Thank You to everyone who contributed to the Youth Hope Food basket drive for families. A total of **310** items were collected and delivered

We collected:

- 29 – Gravy Pouch or Jars
- 35 – Green Beans
- 22 – Cranberry Sauce
- 34 – Boxed Stuffing
- 18 - Sweet Potatoes/Yams
- 29 - Boxed Macaroni & Cheese
- 19 - Cake/Brownie/Cookie Mix
- 41 – Corn Bread
- 32 – Boxed Potatoes
- 30 – Canned Pumpkin
- 21 – Vegetable Oil

USHER and COUNTER LISTS

This year, I would like to email the Usher and Counter lists for 2026. If you prefer a hard copy, please let me know. The lists will be emailed by December 14.

Also, if you would like to volunteer as Back Door greeter, Lector, Communion Assistant, Usher, Counter or as a Sub, please let the office know.. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered this past year. Teri

A note about Calvary's finances:

The congregation council wants you to be aware of the congregation's financial situation. The Calvary administration, working to be the best possible stewards of the congregation's resources, has reduced expenses to date for 2025 by just over \$9,000 compared to 2024. Spending is also under budget for the year to date. Unfortunately, offerings and other income has dropped significantly. The congregation has received more than \$18,000 less in 2025. The treasurer has been able to use savings from previous years to keep the congregation current with all our bills and other obligations. However, those reserves are running out.

Please prayerfully consider your offerings for the remainder of the year in support of the ministry of Calvary.



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 DECEMBER

Pam Ohrn & Sandy Ohrn.

LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. for DECEMBER

**Dec. 7 – SERVICE AT FIRST LUTHERAN
MOLINE (10:30 AM)**

Dec. 14 – Sandy Ohrn (L & CA);
Sandy Ohrn & Deb Faith (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 – Barb Geerts

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 Langston

Dec. 24 – **NO COUNTERS NEEDED**

Dec. 28 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston

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

ALTAR GUILD for JANUARY

Pam Ohrn & Sandy Ohrn

LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. for JANUARY

Jan. 4 – Gary Gross (L & CA); Terry Langston (CA)

Jan. 11 – Joe Geerts (L & CA); Bruce Daniel (CA)

Jan. 18 – Renee Ketelsen (L & CA); Val Daniel (CA)

Jan. 25 – Paul Levesque (L & CA);
Dawn Levesque (CA)

BACK DOOR GREETERS for JANUARY

Jan. 4 – Joe Geerts

Jan. 11 – Jacki Dooley

Jan. 18 – Vicki McAlister

Jan. 25 – Dawn Levesque

COUNTERS for JANUARY

Jan. 4 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase

Jan. 11 – Barb Geerts & Teri Griebel

Jan. 18 – Paul Levesque & Barb Geerts

Jan. 25 – Charlene Lundstrom & Vicki McAlister

USHERS/GREETERS for JANUARY

Jan. 4 – Vicki McAlister & Volunteer

Jan. 11 – Bruce & Val Daniel



Jan. 18 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase

Jan. 25 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross



| November '25 | | | | | | |
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| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| 30 1ST Sunday in Advent LSSI CHRISTMAS GIFTS DUE 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 | 2 | 3 11:30 AM WELCA CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON AT PAGALO'S 119 1st Ave, W Milan | 4 Poinsettia Order Deadline 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 10:00 am Altar Guild Meeting - Upper room | 5 | 6 |
| 7 2ND Sunday in Advent 10:00 am Worship at Firth Lutheran Downtown Moline | 8 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study 11:15 am Service Committee Meeting | 9 1:00 pm Church Council | 10 | 11 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 9:00 am Faithful Flexors | 12 | 13 10:00 am - CHRISHTMAS CAROLING - MEET AT CALVARY |
| 14 3RD Sunday in Advent 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship NOON - WELCA LUNCHEON | 15 9:00 am OFFICE OPEN 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study | 16 9:00 am OFFICE OPEN | 17 9:00 am OFFICE OPEN 9:00 am - Calvary Caretaker Crew | 18 NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTED 9:00 am OFFICE OPEN 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 7:00 pm Quad City Coin Club - Erlander Hall | 19 | 20 |
| 21 4TH Sunday in Advent 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship | 22 Office may or may not be open NO FAITHFUL FLEXORS NO BIBLE STUDY | 23 Office may or may not be open | 24 CHRISTMAS EVE OFFICE CLOSED 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service - St. James, Rock Island | 25  | 26 OFFICE CLOSED | 27 |
| OFFICE CLOSED THIS WEEK - PASTOR AND TERI ON VACATION DEC. 26 THROUGH JAN. 2, 2026 | | | | | | |
| 28 LESSONS & CAROLS 10:30 am Worship with the Prazin Hymn Trio | 29 OFFICE CLOSED | 30 OFFICE CLOSED | 31 NEW YEARS EVE OFFICE CLOSED | 1 OFFICE CLOSED  | 2 OFFICE CLOSED | 3 |
| Notes: Poinsettia Orders are due in the office by December 4 th. December 15 - WELCA LUNCHEON - Information on Page 3 of Newsletter December 15 - OFFICE WILL BE OPEN THRU DECEMBER 18. Week of Christmas - Office may or may not be open. December 24 - 4:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service at Calvary, Moline December 24 - 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service at St. James, Rock Island ** Please Note - Pastor may be reached on his cell.** | | | | | | |