

# Calvary Courier

## February 2026

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

### From the Pastor:

Somewhere I heard the saying, “The only constant in life is change.” I suppose some aspects of that cliché are debatable. But change is undoubtedly inevitable.

On a personal level in 2025 I certainly experienced change through the death of my oldest brother, Bill. He was a significant influence in my life. While we were not in regular contact, I miss knowing that he is around. I served as Bill’s healthcare power-of-attorney, and in the final month of his life I spent a significant amount of time helping coordinate his care, including several trips to Champaign County where he lived. Now I am navigating the process of closing his estate as his executor, which will include more trips to Champaign for things like selling his house and car. I am deeply grateful for all your notes of support and sympathy during this time and for your patience as I need to be out of town to deal with Bill’s estate. I will do my best to make sure this business has minimal impact on my ministry among you.

As a congregation we also have experienced changes in 2025. Most notably is the change that is occurring through our participation in the RIM (Rock Island/Moline) churches and RIM task force. In Rock Island and Moline there are eight ELCA congregations. All eight, to some degree, are experiencing the changes that exist in Christian churches in general: aging membership, declining participation, shrinking financial support, and increasing, often expensive, building maintenance.

In response to those challenges, and after more than a year of conversation among the pastors, we have begun to understand the need for collaboration and cooperation among us. To that end, the eight congregations joined together for worship twice in 2025, a Pentecost celebration in Centennial Hall at Augustana, and joining in the celebration of First, Moline’s 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary in December. Both services were a true expression of worship and joy as the one body of Christ we represent in Rock Island and Moline.

The RIM task force was established as a group of lay leaders from all eight congregations to continue to explore ways that we can best serve God’s mission in our communities in the years to come. I can’t predict what the pathway to the future will be for our congregations, but I have no doubt that it will involve change.

At the same time, Calvary and St. James continue to explore what our future might look like and how it might need to change. Thanks to the members of the Vision Team (Valorie Daniel, Pam Gross, Jerry Johansen, Greg Johnson, Terrill Johnson, Terry Langston, Donna Renneke, and Bethany Weipert) the process continues to move forward as we seek to work together and support each other for the sake of the gospel.

Together in 2025 St. James and Calvary worshipped together (once including All Saints Episcopal Church), served in some mission projects together, picnicked together, shared some WELCA activities, and even enjoyed a couple evenings at the theater (Music Guild) together.

I firmly believe that the more we do things together, the stronger our bond and the better prepared we are to embrace whatever change may be headed our way.

These, of course, are just a couple examples of the changes that are headed our way. There will be others. Some we may already be anticipating while others are unknown to us right now.

And while change may be inevitable, there are a couple things that remain constant.

The first constant is the love and presence of God. No matter what changes that will, without doubt, come, God, through the Holy Spirit, will be walking with us to support us, lead us, and, from time to time, push us. And while some of the changes we may experience might not have the results we hope for, we also trust that God’s church will continue in some form and God’s word will be proclaimed.

The second constant is the work we do for the mission of Christ in the world. I am confident that as we experience the changes that certainly lie ahead, we will continue to serve Christ by serving our neighbors by:

- Serving the hungry through things like providing meals at the Christian Care and Café on Vine, and providing non-perishables to local food pantries.
- Bringing comfort and warmth to those in need with our quilts, afghans, hats, scarves, mittens, etc.
- Sharing the love of God around the world from financial support to a hospital in Tanzania to water filters for the people of Romania and Guatemala.
- Supporting the work of the church in Illinois, the United States and the around the globe through our mission support to the Northern Illinois Synod.
- Supporting our community by providing space for community organizations to meet.
- Lifting up the members of our congregations through prayer, financial support, hands-on help, funeral meals, smiles and hugs.
- Providing opportunities for people to grow in faith through worship and Bible study.
- And many other ways.

Change is inevitable. The church, including our congregations, will not look the same in five or ten years as it does now. But no matter how it changes, it will still be built on the foundation of God's love and it will continue.

I am proud of the ways our congregations are preparing for change and thankful for the support of each you as we seek to be the presence of God through whatever change may be coming.

In Christ, *Pastor Knowles*



### FAITHFUL FLEXORS

**Faithful Flexors** Back to work after Holiday Break. We started on January 19, classes are Monday and Thursday at 9 a.m. We will be working on strength training and balance. Everything we do can be done standing or sitting – give it a try – you'll like it!



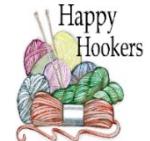
### Happy Birthday to:

- 2 – Rick Ohrn
- 7 – Renee Ketelsen
- 8 – Megan Necessary
- 9 – Beth Fuller
- 10 – Kendall Knowles
- 15 – Elaine Foster
- 20 – Linda Johansen
- 21 – Lisa Dicks, Logan Gross, Sue Knipe

**NEW PHONE NUMBER for BETTY CLARK –**  
309 – 278-1408 – Please change your directory.

Also, **BEV BOYLE** is now at Silver Cross Nursing, and Rehab. Friendship Manor RI – Room 149

### HAPPY HOOKERS - January 28 and February 25



The Happy Hookers will be meeting on January 28 and on February 25 at 9:30 a.m. We will begin working on projects for 2026. Everyone is welcome to join our fun group to enjoy our great fellowship and delicious snacks. If you have ideas for next year's Christmas gifts, please share. Of course, if the weather is bad, please stay home.

### SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY - February 8



Empty those coin jars and bring it to church on February 8. We will be collecting all loose coins, paper money, or checks for Souper Bowl. Collection will go to Churches United local hunger.

### ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES - FEBRUARY 18

Services will be held at:

Noon – at Calvary and 7:00 pm – at St. James in Rock Island



### MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

This year there will be no noon mid-week service at Calvary. Instead, our Mid-Week services will be held jointly with all the RI/Moline (RIM) churches at 7 p.m. – locations will vary. There will be a soup supper before each service. Watch the bulletin for more information.



**We offer our sympathies and prayers** to Rusty and to the family and friends of Dorothy Harmening. She passed away on January 16. Funeral services will be held at Calvary on Tuesday, January 27. with visitation on Monday at Van Hoe, East Moline from 4 – 7 p.m. May you find refuge and comfort in our Lord Jesus Christ.



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

**from Karen & Roger Thorsvold:** Thank you to the Happy Hookers and WELCA ladies for remembering Roger and me at Christmas. The beautiful Christmas card, cookies and candies, and blankets are much appreciated. Happy New Year!

**from Ann Donahue:** I would like to thank the carolers, they sure brightened the day. Also, thank you to Happy Hookers for remembering me again with the beautiful lap robe. I'm sure it will keep me warm in the coming days.

**from Pastor Don & Mary:** To our Calvary family, Mary and I offer our thanks to you for your generous Christmas gift and for all your expressions of sympathy upon the death of my brother. Your prayers and support are truly meaningful to us.

**from Teri Griebel:** I would like to thank those that thought of me this past Christmas with your cards and gifts. A Big Thank You to Sandy Ohrn and those who have helped in the office this past year. May God continue to hold each of you in the palm of His hand.

**from Bethany for Children & Families:** On behalf of all of us at Bethany for Children & Families, thank you so much for your generous donation of knitted hats, gloves, scarfs and blankets. We are truly grateful for your thoughtfulness and heart for the kids and families we serve.

**from LSSI:** Thank you for remembering LSSI with your gift of \$690.00 to LSSI. Your gift provides hope for the over 50,000 people we serve each year.

**from LSSI – Moline Office:** Thank you for the generous angel tree gifts and monetary donation. The youth we serve are very grateful!

**from Logan Staff:** Thank you for your donation to Logan. The students appreciate being able to have spare clothes to change into. And nurse really appreciates them too! Thank you again for your generosity.

**from Youth Hope:** Thank you so much for your generous contribution of \$205 to be used where it is needed most and \$293.53 for our food pantry. Together, we can continue to make an eternal difference!

**from Christian Care:** We would like to express our sincere appreciation for your recent donation in the amount of \$587.06 on 12/3/2025. Your gift allows us to continue to serve the needs of men, women, and children.

#### WELCA MEETING – FEBRUARY 4

WELCA will meet in the Upper Room on Wednesday, February 4 at 11:30 a.m. Please bring a snack to share. Open to all ladies of Calvary.

#### MARCH Newsletter Deadline Tuesday, February 10

All articles for the March newsletter should be emailed to the church office or placed in my box by **Tuesday, February 10**. The newsletter will be in your box on Sunday, February 22.



#### CALVARY CARETAKER CREW – February 18

CCC will meet on Wednesday, February 18 at 9:00 a.m. After an hour of light cleaning and maintenance work we will enjoy food and fellowship. All are welcome



#### SAVE THE DATES:

#### SERVING at CAFÉ ON VINE

We will be serving lunch at Café on Vine on the following dates: **April 11, June 20 and November 7**. As we have for the past several years, we will have sign-up sheets in the Narthex for food items and for workers. Please watch the March newsletter for more details.



# Volunteer Schedule

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

## ALTAR GUILD for FEBRUARY

Renee Ketelsen and Candice Tennison

## LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. FEBRUARY

Feb. 1 – Barb Geerts (L);  
Connie & Terry Langston (CA)  
Feb. 8 – Deb Faith (L & CA);  
Renee Ketelsen (CA)  
Feb. 15 – Judi Ingerson (L);  
Joe Geerts & Gary Gross (CA)  
Feb. 22 – Sandy Ohrn (L & CA);  
Sheila Doering (CA)

## BACK DOOR GREETERS for FEBRUARY

Feb. 1 – Deb Faith  
Feb. 8 – Terry Langston  
Feb. 15 – Sandy Ohrn  
Feb. 22 – Pam Gross

## COUNTERS for FEBRUARY

Feb. 1 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston  
Feb. 8 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston  
Feb. 15 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase  
Feb. 22 – Charlene Lundstrom & Vicki McAlister

## USHERS/GREETERS for FEBRUARY

Feb. 1 – Kirk Ketelsen  
Feb. 8 – David Peterson & Terry Langston  
Feb. 15 – Vicki McAlister & Volunteer  
Feb. 22 – Bruce & Val Daniel



## LTAR GUILD for MARCH

Bruce & Val Daniel

## LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. MARCH

March 1 – Joe Geerts (L & CA);  
Terry Langston (CA)  
March 8 – Val Daniel (L & CA);  
Bruce Daniel (CA)  
March 15 – Paul Levesque (L & CA);  
Dawn Levesque (CA)  
March 22 – Jacki Dooley (L & CA);  
Deb Faith & Renee Ketelsen (CA)  
March 29 – Karla Kirkwood-Johnson (L);  
Sandy Ohrn & Connie Langston (CA)

## BACK DOOR GREETERS for MARCH

March 1 – Linda Chase  
March 8 – Barb Geerts  
March 15 – Dawn Levesque  
March 22 – Vicki McAlister  
March 29 – Deb Faith

## COUNTERS for MARCH

March 1 – Paul Levesque & Barb Geerts  
March 8 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel  
March 15 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston  
March 22 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston  
March 29 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase

## USHERS/GREETERS for MARCH

March 1 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase  
March 8 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross  
March 15 – Kirk Ketelsen  
March 22 – David Peterson & Terry Langston  
March 29 – Vicki McAlister & Volunteer