

Calvary Courier

March 2026

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor

It is not a coincidence that the word “human,” shares a common root to the word “humus.” Now, for those of you who are active gardeners, you will recognize the word “humus” describing dirt. So how are dirt and humans connected.

If you are familiar with the creation story from Genesis 2, you will recall that God in that passage takes a handful of dirt from the garden and creates Adam (a Hebrew word meaning “human”). Adam is made from dirt. Then, into this lump of dirt God breathes the spirit of life. (In Hebrew and in Greek, the word for spirit, breath and wind are all the same.)

To consider that Genesis story and the theological understanding that humans come from humus, I find humbling (another word related to humus).

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. As a part of the Ash Wednesday liturgy worshipers are invited to come forward during the confession to have a cross of ashes traced on their foreheads. As the ashes are imposed, the presider says the words, “Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” The purpose of this rite is to remind us that as humans we are humus. It is a call to humbleness. It is a call to recognize that, before God, we are nothing but ashes and that we owe our very existence to the breath/spirit of God.

I recently heard someone comment that they don’t like the season of Lent because it is such a “downer.” And I suppose in some ways it is. I’m not sure that any of us like to be “humbled.”

But I think it is important, in the rhythm of the church year and in the rhythm of life, to be reminded of who we are. We are not God. We are humans. We are not in charge of the world. We are not in charge of our salvation. We are humus.

In recognizing who we are and who we are not, then, provides us the opportunity to also recognize the tremendous love that God has for us. God does in fact breathe into us the breath of life and shares his spirit with us. God cares so much for this lump of dirt that I am, that he gave me life and promises me a place in his kingdom.

Lent is an opportunity for us to be humble, and remember that even though we are humus, God loves us anyway.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles



Happy Birthday to:

- 1 – Gisele Richardson
- 2 – Peter Doering
- 8 – Judi Ingerson
- 13 – Linda Chase

- 15 – Margo Miller, Randi Toft
- 17 – Ted Jackson
- 25 – Pam Gross
- 27 – Laura Knipe

Happy Anniversary to:

- 6 – Bob & Charlene Lundstrom (1976)
- 19 – Dianna & Terry Kitchen (1983)

**DAYLIGHT SAVING
TIME BEGINS**

On Saturday, March 7, Be sure and Change Your Clocks **AHEAD** one (1) hour before going to bed.



**PALM SUNDAY
JOINT SERVICE
on MARCH 29
at ST. JAMES, RI**

Service begins
at 8:30 a.m.



(no service
at Calvary)



We offer our sympathies and prayers to the following families and friends::

✠ **To Pastor Mike and Karen Clark**, and to the many family and friends of Betty Clark. She passed away on January 30.

✠ **To Dean & Linda Chase** and family on the passing of their uncle Ray Damm on Feb. 10

✠ **To friends of Pastor Donald Strandlund** who passed February 11. His obituary is on the bulletin board. He was a former member of Calvary who entered the ministry in 1961.

✠ **To Joe & Barb Geerts** on the passing of Joe's brother, Jerry on February 13.

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



**MID-WEEK LENTEN
SCHEDULE
JOINT SERVICES**

This year there will be
no noon mid-week service at
Calvary.

The 2026 Midweek Lenten Services will be joint services with the Rock Island/Moline (RIM) congregations. The theme of the services will be Going Deeper: Conversations with Jesus. We will be invited to explore the why behind what we do in response to God's call in an ever-changing world. We will join the conversation between Jesus and his partners from Sunday's gospel readings as we think about naming, claiming, and proclaiming our why. Each week the RIM congregations will gather together for worship at 7:00 pm.

A soup supper will precede worship at 6:00 pm. at Firsst Lutheran Church, Moline. The schedule is as follows:

- February 25 @ San Jose Obrero
(located at Trinity Moline)
- March 4 @ First, Moline
- March 11 @ Salem, Moline
- March 18 @ St. James, Rock Island
(co-hosted with Calvary)
- March 25 @ First, Rock Island



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



From IA City VA Medical Center: On behalf of the Iowa City VAMC patients and staff, we would like to extend our appreciation to you for your donation of blankets.



From Terri Gleize, Kings Harvest: Please let me express my heartfelt gratitude today and every day for your unwavering support of Kings Harvest Ministries and Kings Harvest Pet Rescue.



From Youth Hope: Thank you for your generous contribution of \$109 for our food pantry and to the support of Youth Hope.

WELCA MEETING – MARCH 4

WELCA will meet in the Upper Room on Wednesday, March 4 at 11:00 a.m. Please bring a snack to share. Open to all ladies of Calvary.

APRIL Newsletter Deadline Tuesday, March 17

All articles for the March newsletter should be emailed to the church office or placed in my box by **Tuesday, March 17**. The newsletter will be in your box on Sunday, March 29.

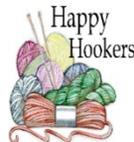


CALVARY CARETAKER CREW March 18

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

HAPPY HOOKERS – MARCH 25

The Happy Hookers will be meeting on March 25 at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join our fun group to enjoy our great fellowship and delicious snacks.



RIM (ROCK ISLAND/MOLINE) INFORMATIONAL VOTE AT ANNUAL MEETING

The informational vote concerning working with the RIM group was 24 yes and 9 no. This means Calvary will continue to meet and work towards cooperation with the other 7 ELCA Lutheran congregations. If you have any ideas or questions for the group please let me know. Pam Gross

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 April newsletter.

ANNAUL MEETING:

At the Annual Meeting held at Calvary on Sunday, January 25, the Statement of Declaration Regarding Rostered Ministry and same sex relationships was rescinded.

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

A special council meeting was held after the annual meeting on January 26 for newly elected members and to elect officers for the coming year. New council members are Jacki Dooley and Tony VanDamme.

OUR ELECTED COUNCIL OFFICERS for 2026:

- President – Gary Gross
- Vice President – Judi Ingerson
- Secretary – Paul Levesque
- Treasurer – Pam Gross

Council meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. in the Library downstairs.

MISSION TRIP TO GUATEMALA



I am going on a mission trip to Guatemala July 18 – 26, 2026. ACF is looking for additional people to join this trip. If you want information about this trip, or if you have any questions, please pick up an information sheet in the narthex, or contact me. Thank You. Greg Johnson (309-236-3394)

**2026 SHOE DRIVE FOR KIDS
IN ROMANIA AND GUATEMALA**



This year we will be collecting shoes for kids in Romania and Guatemala. You may buy and bring the shoes to Calvary during the campaign, which will run March 1st through April 30th.

Monetary donations of any amount will also be accepted. Checks and cash can be given to Calvary via your giving envelope. (A donation of \$23.00 will buy a pair of shoes and 2 pairs of socks.)

Please see the display in the narthex, and thank you for your past support. Greg Johnson (309-236-3394)

Order your Easter Lilies for Calvary!



**DEADLINE FOR ORDERING
Is TUESDAY, MARCH 10**

Please complete this form.

Return it to the Church Office or place in the offering plate.

You may also email the office at secretary@calvarymoline.org.

The cost of each plant is \$12.00

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

Please complete the appropriate information:

In Memory of:

In Honor of:

Given by:

April 5 - Easter Service is at 10:30 a.m.

Please take your plant home following the Easter Service

NOTICE – NOTICE – NOTICE

JEWELRY FOUND

While cleaning out the kitchen – a small round hat box with a pin cushion on top was found. Inside were various pieces of jewelry:

- 1) Alleman class ring – initials YDF – 1957
- 2) United Township HS pendant – no date or initials. This would attach to a necklace.
- 3) Older class ring – unable to make out date
- 4) 2 necklaces – 1 just a chain – the other has turquoise on it.

If you think this might be your jewelry, please contact the church office at 309-762-5423.



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 APRIL

Pam Ohrn & Sandy Ohrn

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)
Deb Faith & Renee Ketelsen (CA)

March 29 – SERVICE AT ST. JAMES

BACK DOOR GREETERS for MARCH

- March 1 – Linda Chase
- March 8 – Barb Geerts
- March 15 – Dawn Levesque
- March 22 – Vicki McAlister

March 29 – SERVICE AT ST. JAMES

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 – SERVICE AT ST. JAMES

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 – SERVICE AT ST. JAMES

ALTAR GUILD for APRIL

Barb Geerts & Connie Langston

LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. APRIL

- April 5 – Barb Geerts (L)
Joe Geerts & Terry Langston (CA)
- April 12 – Gary Gross (L & CA);
Bruce Daniel (CA)
- April 19 – Renee Ketelsen (L & CA);
Deb Faith (CA)
- April 26 – Sandy Ohrn (L & CA);
Sheila Doering (CA)

BACK DOOR GREETERS for APRIL

- April 5 – Pam Gross
- April 12 – Jacki Dooley
- April 19 – Sandy Ohrn
- April 26 – Terry Langston

COUNTERS for APRIL

- April 5 – Charlene Lundstrom & Vicki McAlister
- April 12 – Paul Levesque & Barb Geerts
- April 19 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel
- April 26 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston

USHERS/GREETERS for APRIL

- April 5 – Bruce & Val Daniel
- April 12 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase
- April 19 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross
- April 26 – Kirk Ketelsen

March 2026

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

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship GISELE RICHARDSON TURNS 102	2 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	3	4 11:00 am WELCA, Upper Room 6:00 pm Soup Supper @ 1st, Moline 7:00 pm Worship @ 1st, Moline	5 9:00 am Faithful Flexors	6	7 Daylight Saving Time Begins- Turn Clocks Ahead 1 Hour before bed
8 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship	9 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	10 EASTER LILY ORDER DEADLINE	11 6:00 pm Soup Supper @ 1st, Moline 7:00 pm Worship @ Salem, Moline	12 9:00 am Faithful Flexors	13	14
15 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship	16 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	17 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 1:00 pm Church Council	18 6:00 pm Soup Supper @ 1st, Moline 7:00 pm Worship @ St. James, RI	19 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 7:00 pm Quad City Coin Club - Erlander Hall	20	21
22 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship	23 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	24	25 9:30 am Happy Hookers 6:00 pm Soup Supper @ 1st, Moline 7:00 pm Worship @ 1st, RI	26 NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTED 9:00 am Faithful Flexors	27	28
29 PALM SUNDAY 8:30 AM - SERVICE AT ST. JAMES	30 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	31	1	2 MAUNDY THURSDAY 9:00 am Faithful Flexors 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service - Calvary	3 GOOD FRIDAY Noon - Good Friday Service - Calvary 7:00 pm Good Friday Service - St. James, RI	4
5 HAPPY EASTER! 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship	6	Notes: EASTER LILY ORDER DEADLINE IS MARCH 10TH! REMEMBER - MARCH 7 - turn clocks ahead 1 hour before going to bed PALM SUNDAY SERVICE - 8:30 AM AT ST. JAMES, ROCK ISLAND				