

Calvary Courier

April 2026

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor:

As we hear the Easter story from Matthew's gospel this year, we encounter a number of characters. There is Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. There is the angel and the guards. And of course there is Jesus. But as I was thinking about the Easter story the other day, I thought about one other "character" from the drama. Have you ever thought much about the stone in the Easter story?

The purpose of the stone, on a practical level, is to seal the tomb to prevent the stench of a decaying body from seeping out. On a literary level, though, the purpose of the stone is to prevent Jesus from escaping the tomb. Symbolically, the stone exists in an effort to keep Jesus safely in the tomb and not allow the new life he brings to invade the world.

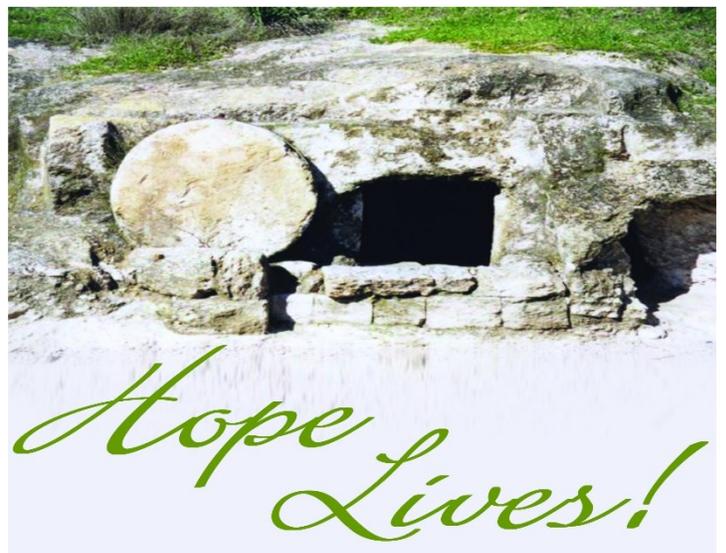
However, the stone will not succeed. God will not let the stone fulfill its role of keeping Jesus entombed and out of the lives of the people. Instead, in Matthew's gospel, an angel comes and creates an earthquake that causes the stone to roll away and letting the resurrected Jesus loose in the world. There is no stone big or heavy enough to prevent God from letting the new life in Christ out of the tomb.

As I thought about that stone, I wondered what stones are still being placed at the entrance of the tomb in an effort to keep Jesus contained. Sometimes there are stones placed at the entrance of the tomb because people

don't want to hear the message of Jesus' love for everyone. It is easier to dislike or even hate the ones that disagree with us. Or maybe the stone is placed at the entrance to the tomb because people don't want to share their wealth with those in need. Or perhaps a stone is placed between the resurrected Jesus and ourselves because if we truly acknowledge that Jesus is loose in the world, then we might have step outside our comfortable lives and be a servant to others.

As you celebrate Easter this year, remember the stone. Consider what stones you may place at the entrance of the tomb in order to keep Jesus at a comfortable distance from making too much difference in your life. And know that there is no stone big enough to keep God from rolling it away and allowing Jesus into your life.

In Christ, *Pastor Knowles*





Happy Birthday to:

- 1 – Carolyn Coulter
- 4 – Judy Noftsker
- 6 – John James Gross
- 7 – Greg Johnson
- 9 – Joe Geerts,
Gene Untiedt,

- 10 – Marilyn Gross
- 15 - Randi Toft
- 18 – Erik Ohrn



**WELCA SPRING ASSEMBLY
SATURDAY, APRIL 18**

The WELCA Spring Assembly will be Saturday, April 18 at Calvary, 2900 Ave of the Cities, Moline.. Registration and refreshments at 9:00 a.m. with a program to follow.

Please join us for a presentation from Co-founder & Director, Cloey Miller, of The Third Place in Rock Island, IL. They are a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping those experiencing housing instability. The business meeting will follow.

To Register, please call Calvary 309-762-5423 or email to secretary@calvarymoline.org by April 10th.

**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 family and friends of Bev Boyle. She passed away on March 2. May you find refuge and comfort in our Lord Jesus Christ.



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

- ❖ **from Christy Adamson:** Thank you Calvary for sharing in the celebration of Bev Boyle’s life. Mom’s faith was an important part of her life. Our whole family appreciates the support
- ❖ **from ELCA – The Rev. Daniel Rift, Director:** Thank you for your gifts(s) given to your synod, which were received by the ELCA churchwide organization last month.



**LAST MID-WEEK LENTEN
JOINT SERVICE**

Our LAST Joint Lenten Service will be March 25 at 1st Lutheran, Rock Island at 7:00 p.m. with a soup supper beginning at 6:00 p.m. at the church.



WELCA MEETING – April 1

WELCA will meet in the Upper Room on Wednesday, April 1 at 11:00 a.m. Please bring a snack to share. Open to all ladies of Calvary.

**MAY Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday, April 14**



All articles for the May newsletter should be emailed to the church office or placed in my box by **Tuesday, April 14**. The newsletter will be in your box on Sunday, April 26.



PASTOR ON VACATION

Pastor Knowles will be on vacation from April 23 through April 29. And, May 4th through May 10th.

CALVARY CARETAKER CREW

April 15

CCC will meet on Wednesday, April 15 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 – April 29

The Happy Hookers will be meeting on April 29 at 9:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome to join our fun group to enjoy our great fellowship and delicious snacks.



SERVING CAFÉ ON VINE – APRIL 11 SIGN-UP SHEET IN NARTHEX



The sign-up board is in the narthex for food items and for serving lunch on April 11. We need helpers on Friday, April 10 at 9:30 a.m. to prepare the meal. We will need servers on Saturday, April 11. Meet at church at 10:30 a.m. to head over to Café on Vine. We serve from noon to 1:00 p.m.

We will also be serving on the following dates:
June 20 and November 7.

2026 SHOE DRIVE FOR KIDS IN ROMANIA AND GUATEMALA



The shoe campaign will continue through April 30th. You may buy and bring kids shoes of any sizes to Calvary, or consider monetary donations of any amount. 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 support. Greg Johnson (309-236-3394)



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)

CLEANING SUPPLIES PANTRY

Calvary is planning on having a cleaning supplies pantry. We are looking for volunteers to help with the start up. This would be a good outreach for our community to help those in need of cleaning supplies. If interested, please contact Terry Langston (309) 292-1040 or Debbie Faith (309) 912-8784.

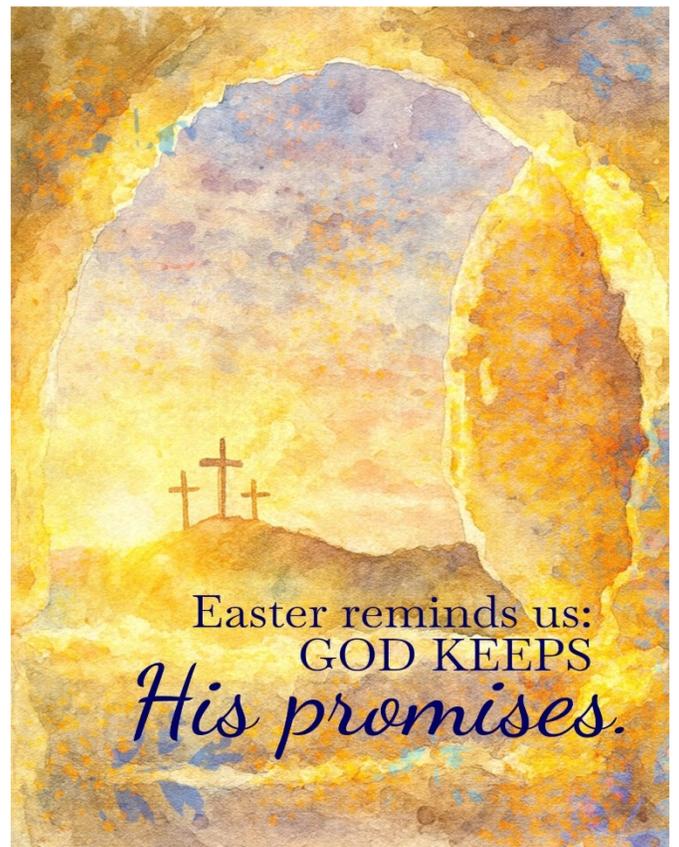
LAST CALL NOTICE

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.



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 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 Langsotn

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

ALTAR GUILD for MAY

Judi Ingerson & Linda Grace

LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. MAY

- May 3 – Judi Ingerson (L)
Joe Geerts & Gary Gross (CA)
May 10 – Deb Faith (L & CA);
Renee Ketelsen (CA)
May 17 – Linda Chase (L);
Connie & Terry Langsotn (CA)
May 24 – Karla Kirkwood-Johnson (L);
Sandy Ohrn & Sheila Doering (CA)
May 31 – Val Daniel (L & CA); Bruce Daniel (CA)

BACK DOOR GREETERS for MAY

- May 3 – Linda Chase
May 10 – Joe Geerts
May 17 – Deb Faith
May 24 – Gary Gross
May 31 – Renee Ketelsen

COUNTERS for MAY

- May 3 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston
May 10 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase
May 17 – Charlene Lundstrom & Vicki McAlister
May 24 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel
May 31 – Paul Levesque & Barb Geerts

USHERS/GREETERS for MAY

- May 5 – David Peterson & Terry Langsotn
May 12 – Vicki McAlister & Volunteer
May 19 – Bruce & Val Daniel
May 26 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase
May 31 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross

Happy Easter

