

Calvary Courier

August 2026

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor,

As I sit down to write this letter, like so many of my sermons lately, I really don't know where I'm going with it. However, there is this nagging thought in my head that wants to be shared.

Yesterday I made what I hope will be one of my last trips to Rantoul, Illinois. That's where my oldest brother's house is. As most of you are aware, Bill passed away in December, and he named me the executor of his estate. So, I have been responsible for his business, including getting his house ready to sell. Since December I have regularly been making the three-hour drive to Rantoul to search for important documents, make sure the heat was working, shovel the snow, check the mail, clean out the refrigerator, cancel the satellite TV account and the internet service and make sure that his now vacant house was secure.

In the process I also had the task of going through his things, searching for anything of value, both monetary and sentimental. There really was very little of either. Bill lived fairly simply and didn't spend money on "things," except for the 2,000 music CDs that lined the walls of his living room and a similar number of books that filled shelves in every other room in his house. When my other brothers and I met there a few weeks ago to take those things of his that we wanted, we actually took very little. Most of his "stuff" was left behind.

And that is what led to my trip to Rantoul this week. I was signing a contract with a company to clean out the rest of his belongings from the house to get it ready to sell.

As I walked among his possessions one more time, I was surprised by what I felt.

First, I felt sad. I was surrounded by the things that were Bill's. I don't think Bill would have considered them especially valuable. But they

were things that helped to define who he was. They represented the things that were important to him, the things that interested him, the things that brought him joy. And as I thought about those things headed to charities, or recycling, or the garbage, it made me sad. It is a little heartbreaking to realize that, in the end, much of one's stuff will end up in a dumpster.

But a moment later, my feelings of sadness turned into a sense of peace. As I looked at his Cubs shirts hanging in the closets and the dozen reading glasses next to every chair in the house and various electronic toys and his CDs and his books and the memorabilia from the places he lived and worked all around the world, I realized that all that was really just "stuff."

And none of that stuff was Bill. Instead, Bill lives on in my memories. His legacy lives on the things he taught me (like being a left-handed hitting catcher), and in the values he tried to instill in me and the world. For his stuff to end up in the dumpster does not diminish Bill in any way. His presence, in some way, lives on in and through me.

I suspect there is a lesson there somewhere for me as I begin a new chapter in my life. I will have to reflect on that.

I also suspect there is a lesson in that experience for you, my brothers and sisters in Christ at St. James and Calvary, as you consider what your future as congregations looks like. Perhaps it is a good time for you to look around and reflect on what things are really just "stuff," and what you want to live on in and through you.

Peace,

Pastor Knowles



Happy Birthday to:

2 – Bryce Chase
8 – Addi Miller
10 – Valorie Daniel
11 – Marilyn Mudd

12 – Haley Mudd
15 – Sheila Doering
30 – Tyler Lee Miller
31 – Linda Miner, Carl Sefrhans

Happy Anniversary to:

9 – Connie & Terry Langston (1997)
14 – LaVerne & Sue Knipe (1976)
16 – Allen & Judy Noftsker (1998)
20 – Greg & Karla Kirkwood- Johnson (1977)
27 – Rev. Don & Mary Knowles (1983)
29 – Rick & Pam Ohrn (1981)



PASTOR ON VACATION JULY 26 – AUG. 2

Pastor Knowles will be on vacation from beginning July 26 after worship through August 2. If you would need pastoral care please contact Pastor Daniel Witkowski at First Lutheran Church Moline 309-764-3517

FAITHFUL FLEXORS

Faithful meet on Monday and Thursdays each week at 9:00 a.m. downstairs. If you haven't tried our exercise, come and give it a try. It is low impact with a great group of gents and ladies.



SEPTEMBER DEADLINE – AUGUST 18

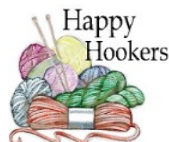
Please have your articles to me no later than August 18. You may email them, place them in my box or call the church office.

CCC – CALVARY CARE CREW AUGUST 19

CCC will meet Wednesday, August 19 at 9:00 a.m. Come and join the group to do some lite cleaning or yard work around the church. After working we will enjoy fellowship time with snacks.

JOINT WORSHIP SERVICE

On August 16 at 8:30 – St. James will welcome Calvary to worship with them. This was a recommendation of the Vision Team to have more joint services together. For more information, please check the table in the narthex.



HAPPY HOOKERS – AUGUST 27

Happy Hookers will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, August 26. Come and join us for laughter, food and great fellowship.

Going Deeper: Spiritual Curiosity Energy Audits

As a part of looking toward the future as congregations in Rock Island and Moline, the bishop has asked the RIM congregations to work through a series of exercises that look at the energy that exists in our congregation from a spiritual, financial, human and missional perspective. The exercises provide an opportunity to reflect and discuss such things as why we are here and what energy do we have for the future. For St. James and Calvary, these "energy audits" provide a good start in thinking about how we see ourselves and our hopes for the future as we transition to a new pastor.



The Vision Team has suggested that we work through these various audits during coffee/fellowship time following worship on the Sundays in August and September. We will begin discussions on Sunday, August 2. The worksheets that will guide the August 2 discussions will be available on July 26.

The more people who participate and share their thoughts, the more helpful they will be in guiding our congregations in the pastoral transition and beyond as we seek to be faithful to our call as children of God. Please plan to participate.

ST. JAMES/RIM CHURCHES

SCHOOL KITS – ST. JAMES/ AND OTHER CHURCHES

It's that time of year again! Children here and worldwide will be returning to school with needed supplies. Please help them by purchasing and donating supplies while special back-to-school sales are on.



Other churches are most welcome and encouraged to help St. James with this important mission

Please contact St. James for drop off information – (309) 786-0503.

Each Lutheran World Relief school kit contains:

4–70 sheet spiral bound notebooks

Wide or College ruled

1–ruler—30 centimeters/12 inches

1–handheld pencil sharpener

1–pair blunt scissors

5—unsharpened pencils

5—blue or black ballpoint ink pens (no gel ink)

1–box of 16 or 24 crayons

1–2 1/2-inch eraser

Monetary donations to “school kits” are also welcome. Members of the St. James *Missions Team* will shop for you! Thank you!



**PET FOOD
COLLECTION**

CALVARY LUTHERAN COLLECTING PET FOOD FOR AUGUST

to QCAWC in Milan for August. They really need wet and dry kitten food, Purina Fancy Feast wet and Kitten dry as they have a lot of kittens to care for; along with Purina Cat Chow and Purina Dog/Puppy Chow. We have a table set up in the narthex We will also be accepting monetary donations. Please call Calvary (309) 762-5423 for drop off information.



FIRST LUTHERAN - 5TH AVE, MOLINE

ICE CREAM SOCIAL - AUGUST 23



First Lutheran Church, 5th Avenue, Moline will be holding an Ice Cream Social on Sunday, August 23.

FUNDRAISER FOR CHRISTIAN CARE AUGUST 30

I'm Storm Marie Baca the organizer of the fundraiser and Council Vice President at First Lutheran Rock Island.

We wanted to invite all of our fellow Northern Illinois Synod to attend our fundraiser for Christian Care on August 30 at 4pm at Skellington Manor Event Center.

The program is dinner and a live show featuring some of old Hollywood's greatest stars....

George Burns and Gracie Allen
Jack Benny
Fred Astaire
Mickey Rooney and others

The event has dinner catered by Bridges catering and the material is fun for the entire family. It will consist of four scripts from the Burns and Allen show and a brand new written live event script.

Tickets are \$55 each and the proceeds from all ticket sales will go to Christian Care!

Tickets must be purchased in advance and are limited I have included the link to directly purchase tickets below.

<https://app.etapestry.com/onlineforms/ChristianFamilyCareCenter/FirstLutheranChurch.html>

Any questions can be directed to me directly and I will happily assist! We hope you will join us for this wonderful event benefiting Christian Care.

Sincerely,

Storm Marie Baca
309-203-7381
stormmarie.baca@gmail.com

Event organizer/ First Lutheran RI Council VP

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 AUGUST

Val and Bruce Daniel

LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. AUGUST

August 2 – Karla Kirkwood-Johnson (L);
Renee Ketelsen & Connie Langston (CA)
August 9 – Val Daniel (L & CA);
Bruce Daniel (CA)
August 16 – **SERVICE AT ST. JAMES**
August 23 – Deb Faith (L & CA)
Sandy Ohrn (CA)
August 30 – Judy Ingerson (L)
Terry Langston & Gary Gross (CA)

BACK DOOR GREETERS for AUGUST

August 2 – Sandy Ohrn
August 9 – Vicki McAlister
August 16 – **SERVICE AT ST. JAMES**
August 23 – Joe Geerts
August 30 – Barb Geerts

COUNTERS for AUGUST

August 2 – Charlene Lundstrom &
Vicki McAlister
August 9 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase
August 16 – **SERVICE AT ST. JAMES**
August 23 – Deb Faith & Teri Griebel
August 30 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston

USHERS/GREETERS for AUGUST

August 2 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase
August 9 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross
August 16 – **SERVICE AT ST. JAMES**
August 23 – David Peterson & Terry Langston
August 30 – Vicki McAlister

ALTAR GUILD for SEPTEMBER.

Barb Geerts Connie Langston

LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. SEPTEMBER

Sept. 6 – Barb Geerts (L);
Sandy Ohrn & Sheila Doering (CA)
Sept. 13 – Renee Ketelsen (L & CA);
Deb Faith (CA)
Sept. 20 – Jacki Dooley (L);
Connie & Terry Langston (CA)
Sept. 27 – Paul Levesque (L & CA)
Dawn Levesque (CA)

BACK DOOR GREETERS for SEPT.

Sept. 6 – Pam Gross
Sept. 13 – Jacki Dooley
Sept. 20 – Terry Langston
Sept. 27 – Dawn Levesque

COUNTERS for SEPT.

Sept. 6 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston
Sept. 13 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase
Sept. 20 – Charlene Lundstrom &
Vicki McAlister
Sept. 27 – Paul Levesque & Barb Geerts

USHERS/GREETERS for SEPT.

Sept. 6 – Bruce & Val Daniel
Sept. 13 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase
Sept. 20 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross
Sept. 27 – Kirk Ketelsen

PLEASE NOTE – THERE IS NO RIM SERVICE ON AUGUST 30