

# Calvary Courier

## January 2019

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

### From the Pastor

On a recent Sunday afternoon I had to go to Geneseo for a funeral. The service was for the Director of Music at First Lutheran in Geneseo. Because Linda was a church staff member and on the roster of the synod as a deacon (what used to be known as an Associate in Ministry) there were a great many people who attended.

When I arrived at the church in Geneseo there were no spaces left in the parking lot, so I found a place down the street to park. As I was walking up the sidewalk back to the church, a woman from a nearby house came out her door to go to her car in the driveway. After exchanging polite greetings she noted the full parking lot and said to me, "There must be a big party going on at the church today." I told her that, unfortunately, it was funeral and, after she expressed appropriate condolences, we went our separate ways.

As I was driving home I thought about my brief encounter with the church's neighbor. How interesting, I thought, that she would assume that since the parking lot was full it must have been for a party. The implication, of course, was that on Sunday morning people are not parking in the street in order to attend worship. The implication was that for many people the only time it is worth the effort to come to church is when there is a special event.

Now I know I am making several assumptions about the parking lot at First Lutheran Church in Geneseo. Some may be valid, others may not. But when it comes to our parking lot, I think those assumptions are very real.

When have you seen our parking lot (either at Calvary or St. James) full? It has only been for special events – large funerals, special musical services, anniversary services, etc. I think it is safe for me to say, though, that I have not seen our parking lot full on a "regular" Sunday morning.

And that is sad. Regular Sunday mornings are a time to reconnect with God following a stressful week. It is a time to hear again that God loves us and forgives us. It is a time to be reminded that we are called to share God's love with the world. It is a time to pray for the world, for loved ones in need, and for ourselves. It is a time to be supported by the people around us and to offer support for them. Regular Sunday mornings are important, too.

So, as we begin a new year I offer a challenge to you. Let's fill our parking lot on regular Sunday mornings. Make weekly worship a priority in your life. And invite your friends and neighbors to join you. Help them to know of the love of God and to experience the fellowship of the Holy Spirit through our congregations. Let our neighbors think that there is a special event going on at the church every single Sunday morning...because there is.

In Christ,

**Pastor Knowles**



### CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

On **Christmas Eve**, let us join together and celebrate the birth of Jesus by attending Calvary's Sunset Candlelight service at 4:00 p.m. or St. James Evening Candlelight service at 7:00 p.m.

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 – Chelsea Levesque
- 4 – John Mudd
- 7 – Gordon Nelson
- 14 – Rev. Don Knowles
- 16 – Ann Donahue
- 18 – Brianna Griebel
- 20 – Sandy Ohrn
- 21 – Pam Ohrn, Carl Lundstrom
- 23 – Brent Behrens
- 31 – Roy Woitte



Happy Anniversary to:

- 7 – Dale & Joyce Armstrong



### OFFICE CLOSED from Dec. 24 – Jan. 1, 2019

Both Pastor Knowles and Teri Griebel will be on vacation through the holidays from Dec. 24 through Jan. 1, 2019. The office will re-open on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Pastor will be back in the office on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

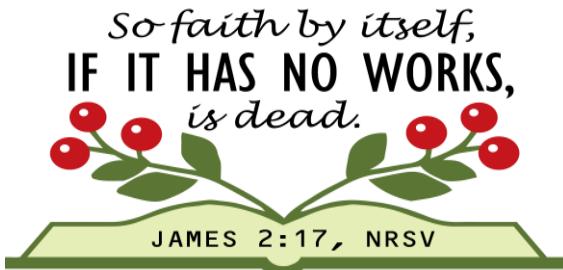
**For pastoral emergencies**, please contact our Parish Nurse, **Becki Maxon** at 309-762-1511 or **Pastor Dan Witkowski** at First Lutheran, Moline – 309-764-3517.

### Don't Forget!



The ANNUAL REPORT information is due in the church office by Sunday, **December 30**. You may either put your reports in my mailbox by the Upper room or you may email your reports to: [secretary@calvarymoline.org](mailto:secretary@calvarymoline.org).

The ANNUAL MEETING will be held in Erlander Hall after worship on **Jan. 27, 2019**.



During the month of December and January we received the following word of thanks....

\* To Our Calvary Friends – May life bring you many Blessings this Christmas Season. In lieu of Christmas cards, a donation has been made to Calvary Lutheran Church to the beautification fund.

--- Happy New Year, Dave & Annette Menke

\* To the Happy Hookers, Thank you so very much for your thoughtfulness! I really appreciate the gifts you made for me. And I especially enjoyed your Christmas caroling. Wish I could have visited longer.

---- Gerda Schmeltzer

\* Thank you for your generous donation of a large bag full of handmade clothing for infants and toddlers. Thank, Happy Hookers for the love and care that your clothing expresses to each baby fortunate to receive.

---- Bill Steinhauser, Pres./CEO  
of Batheny for Children and Families

### NEEDED CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS



For those interested in joining Calvary Lutheran council. There will be several openings. Please contact the office or a council person of your interest in serving the mission of Calvary and the congregation as we move forward towards our 100th year of ministry.

In Christ's service, Gary Gross



**WELCA** - All Calvary women are invited.

- \* **Deborah Circle** – will not in January
- \* Our next meeting is **February 5** in the Upper Room
- \* **HAPPY HOOKERS** - will meet on January 30<sup>th</sup> in Erlander Hall.



Calvary Lutheran Church Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, **January 15th** from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. in the **Fellowship Hall** at **First Baptist Church**. To donate, contact Ted Jackson at (309) 762-0170



**THANK YOU... TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE** Christmas Potluck on Sunday, Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> !!! The food was plentiful and delicious, and we enjoyed having so many guests with us. Special thanks to everyone who brought food and cookies.

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**EPIPHANY DINNER - St. James WELCA**

**Saturday, January 12 at 6:00 p.m.**

The WELCA women of St. James are planning the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Epiphany dinner Saturday, January 12, 2019. All members of Calvary and All Saints are invited to join us. The Polka Band is returning this year. We all enjoyed the rousing music and stories about the music and history of the songs. We are looking forward to sharing a fun evening of music and fellowship with you. The catered dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. and will include stuffed pork chops, potatoes, green beans, salad, rolls, dessert and beverages. The cost of the meal is \$10 per person. Please call the church office at St. James (786-0503) if you will be attending.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

for **FEBRUARY** is **January 10** for distribution on January 24. Please have your articles to me on time as I will also be working on the annual report. You may email or put your articles in my box.

**LUNCH BUNCH**

**Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m.** with Veronica Henderson and her harp. This is a time for fellowship and good food shared with Calvary's members – and invited friends. Please let us know if you need transportation by calling the church office – we'll come and get you!



**THRIVENT MEMBERS**

**Choice Dollars...** Thrivent members have an option to contribute their Choice Dollars to any non-profit organization. Calvary Lutheran Church has received over \$1,000 from this program for the 2018 year. If you have not allocated your funds for 2018 you have until the end of March to do so.



We offer our sympathies and prayers to the following families:

† To friends of Pauline Licko. Pauline passed away on November 22.

† To Karyn Hurst and family. Her mother, Adrienne Powell passed away on November 17.

† To Pastor Knowles and family on the death of his Aunt June on December 6

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



**CAFÉ**

**January 12 at 9:30 a.m.**  
**Moline Public Library Café,**  
**3210 41<sup>st</sup> Street, Moline, IL**  
**Sponsored by St. James WELCA**

Please join us for a cup of coffee, tea, and maybe a pastry, as we gather for Bible Study and discussion on a Podcast from the ELCA website. All women of St. James Lutheran and Calvary Lutheran Churches

**SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE HOUR**

We are always looking for volunteers to help with clean-up after coffee hour. Consider staying a few minutes later to rinse the cups or help load the dishwasher. Many hands make quick work.

**HAPPY HOOKERS**

Many wonderful gifts were distributed to our shut-ins and nursing homes this year. Thanks to all the ladies of Calvary for making the lovely hand-made items.



**2019  
USHER-COUNTER SCHEDULE**

**USHER SCHEDULE** Thank you to Allen Noftsker who has graciously offered to usher on two teams – A and C. We still have a vacancy on Team E. If you would like to volunteer please let me know in the office.

I have placed the 2019 Usher and Counter Schedule in your boxes. Counters/Ushers, please watch the monthly Servant Calendar for any changes that may arise to avoid duplication on a Sunday.



## TRIVIA NIGHT ON FEBRUARY 1

**As part of the celebration** of our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Calvary Lutheran Church will host a trivia night on Friday, February 1. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m. and the game begins at 7 p.m., downstairs in Erlander Hall.

The event will be led by Mister Trivia, the Quad Cities' leading and best trivia host. Cost will be \$100 per table, for tables of up to 10 people; the price includes doublers and mulligans.

Money raised at the trivia night will go toward the love gift that Calvary will give to mark its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The love gift will go toward the establishment of a mission church in Genoa, Illinois.

Along with trivia, the event will feature a silent auction and more. Snacks and soft drinks will be on sale; you may bring your own as well, but no alcoholic beverages please.

To reserve a table, call or text Paul Levesque at (309) 236-1726 or send an e-mail to [levesque5562@att.net](mailto:levesque5562@att.net).

### Knit -A-Bit Group....



The Warm Hands/Warm Hearts Thrivent Action Team along with the Calvary Knit-A-Bit group worked together to make many children a little warmer this year. The group made scarves and hats during the year with the gloves being purchased from Thrivent Action Team money. Over 70 Hat & Scarf sets were donated to Roosevelt and Lincoln -Irving Schools in Moline. Gloves were given to Washington schools in Moline and Davenport. Thank you to the Knit-A-Bit group for all their work during the year. Pam Gross

### DONATIONS through our Website

**DONATIONS through our Website** You are now able to make donations to Calvary through our website. Just click on the Donate tab. If you need help, or more information, please contact the church office.



**Thank you** for making 2018 a good year at Calvary. We have met our financial obligations and have been able to fulfill our benevolences. As we move into our 100<sup>th</sup> year, we want to make sure that we do not grow dependent on the funds received from St. James, so I ask you to be the faithful givers that you are and pray about what God is asking of you in 2019. Our gifts from God consist of our time, talent, and possessions, so please share these gifts to the glory of His Kingdom. We are entering 2019 debt free, but there is always more that can be done for the Kingdom.

--- Pam Gross



Currently Calvary provides a subscription to *Living Lutheran* magazine formally *The Lutheran* for every household in our congregation that would like to receive the magazine. This year the cost for the congregational plan is **\$8.95** per household per year. (An individual subscription is \$19.95/year.) If you are not receiving *Living Lutheran* and would like to, please contact the church office. Also, if you would no longer like to receive the magazine, let us know and we will remove your name from the subscription list. To help offset our cost of the subscriptions, envelopes will be available on the back table in the narthex. Any help you can provide toward your subscription to *Living Lutheran* would be greatly appreciated.

### 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Information:

**For January 2019** – we will be collecting **100 Cans of Soup**.

**Mark your Calendar TRIVIA NIGHT – FEBRUARY 1.** Please above article.

**May the LORD bless his people with peace!**

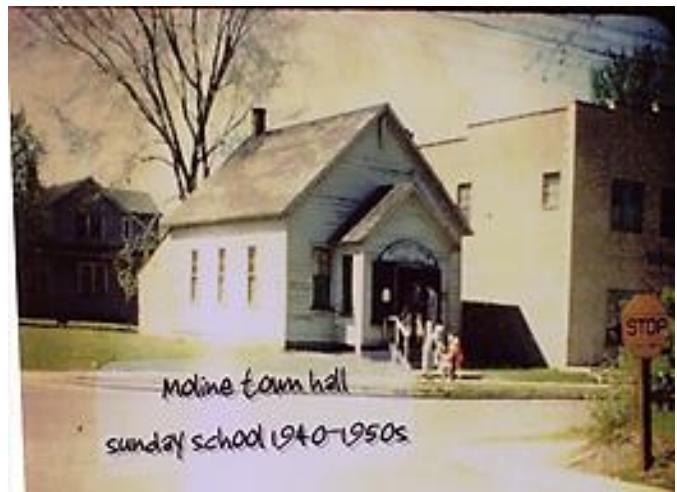
*Psalm 29:11, NRSV*



## Calvary's First Decade (1919-1929)

From school to dance hall to “basement church,” our Calvary congregation kept moving to accommodate its amazing growth during its early years. As part of our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary observance, we will spend the coming months looking back at the church’s century of history, decade-by-decade. Let’s pick up where this congregation’s faith journey began.

Calvary Lutheran Church of Moline was officially organized on Nov. 2, 1919, the outgrowth of a Sunday School established through the efforts of Ernest Weideman of Trinity Lutheran Church in Moline. In the beginning, the children met in a classroom at the Fairview School (Roosevelt). In May of 1919, the Rock Island District of the Augustana Synod recognized the growth potential in the new Highland Addition of Moline, and called future Augustana seminarian Harry Alden to serve in this mission field—and knock on some doors.

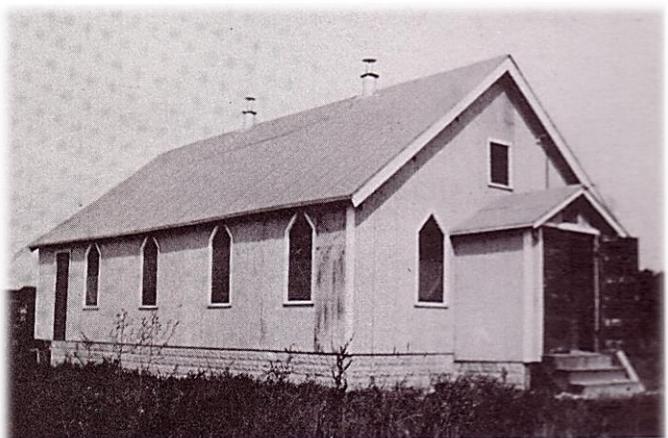


It was a slow start, to be sure. That June, only eight people attended the first worship service held at the school, where the teacher’s desk served as the pulpit. But a canvass of the neighborhood showed there was a strong interest in establishing a church there, and worship attendance grew steadily, until finally a larger meeting place was needed. When school resumed at Fairview that fall, the decision was made to relocate to Sellers Hall, a former dance hall (and a drafty one, at that) on 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue (now Avenue of the Cities). It was here that a new congregation named Calvary Lutheran Church was officially formed with 38 charter members and 60 children. The Rev. Walter Tillberg of Trinity presided over the meeting, during which Mr. Alden was named the church’s pastoral leader. Just a week later, worship was moved to Township Hall

at 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 29<sup>th</sup> Street. The parishioners reportedly brought their own coal to heat the building, which was being rented for \$5 a month. If the township officials needed the space for an event, however, the congregation had to vacate the hall. Its members longed for a place of their own.

And they would have it. The Luther League of the Illinois Conference agreed to purchase a portable chapel for the new congregation. Now they just needed someplace to *put it*. On Feb. 16, 1920, the members decided to purchase a plot of ground at 29 ½ Street near 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue for \$1350. That summer, the Brotherhood of the church built the chapel. Furnishings were provided by three Lutheran churches in Moline: Trinity (pulpit platform and collection plates); Salem (pews and altar) and First (pulpit). Material shortages—and the city’s concerns over safety of the portable building—delayed its opening until July 18, 1920. The chapel was dedicated Aug. 1, with the president of “our” Augustana Synod and various pastors from the Tri-Cities in attendance for the festive occasion.

By the following August, the Sunday School enrollment had grown to 200 under the direction of Sunday School Superintendent Mr. O.O. Walker, and there were about 50 congregational members. Calvary was not without its challenges, however. Mr. Alden lamented that total offerings were averaging only about \$6 a Sunday, which he attributed to high unemployment among the membership. In his final report, he also declared that Sunday attendance was being negatively affected by what he called “the dance.” He said that parents were staying out too late dancing on Saturday nights and not getting their kids to Sunday School the next morning. Still, the mission field showed considerable promise and he issued a plea that a pastor promptly take over the work he had begun.



First Church Building on 30th Street  
Donated by Luther League

In October of 1921, the Rev. Emil Bergren of the Augustana Book Concern was called to serve as Calvary's first ordained minister. Under his leadership the congregation began growing by leaps and bounds. On Easter Sunday in 1926, some 46 children from infants to age 14 were baptized during a single service!



Basement Church

That same year, the Calvary Church Council moved forward with plans to construct a church building; clearly the chapel was not large enough. The congregation had earlier seized an opportunity to purchase three other lots on the more visible southeast corner of 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and 29<sup>th</sup> Street, with the hope that a church would one day be built on the site (the lots on which the chapel sat would be sold). In September of 1926, the congregation finally authorized construction of a "basement church" which would have to suffice until Calvary members could afford to raise the roof, so to speak, for a first-floor sanctuary. Cost of the basement project was estimated at \$13,000. Fund-raising began, and a Roosevelt teacher, Mrs. Grace Puttman—who was not even a member—donated the first \$50 to get things rolling.

Work on the new structure began that October.

By the end of that year, the Rev. Bergren left Calvary to accept a new call. In February of 1927, before the basement church was finished, the congregation called Adolph Dickhart, who was a seminary student at the time. He became the first ordained pastor in fulltime ministry at Calvary when he joined the church in July of 1927. By then, the congregation was in its new building (no date for a "basement church dedication service" could be found). The newly built structure lacked most of the basic furnishings of a worship space/fellowship hall, so the Rev. Dickhart and his parishioners set about filling it with a pulpit, baptismal font, pews, kitchen furnishings and the like. It was reported that the pastor also worked to "build up the walls of the spiritual church." His dedicated efforts resulted in a significant increase in membership in a congregation that was young in more ways than one: the majority of the members were under 30 years of age.

The Rev. Dickhart served the church through the remainder of its first decade. His words to the congregation, urging them to attend regularly and devote themselves more fully to their faith life, should still resonate with members of Calvary today. "We must grow in the inner life and soul life of our congregation...," he stated in one report. "How necessary it is for us to make use of the Word and Sacraments, and feed our soul life.... We cannot grow outwardly unless we grow inwardly."

Interior of the basement church, looking toward the library and kitchen →

