

Calvary Courier

January 2020

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.



¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-5, 14)

The photo to the left is a picture of my father, probably in his early 70's at the time, playing with one of his grandsons. The picture so typifies my dad's interactions with his grandchildren. He was never content to just watch them or direct their play from afar. Rather, my father loved to get down on their level, as he is in this picture, to play with them. Even into his 70's and 80's my father would get down on the floor or in the dirt to play with his grandchildren. He would

help them build squirrel traps in the backyard (thankfully they never caught one), get down on the floor to play a game with them, or ride a tricycle in the driveway. He loved them so much that he did what he could to be with them in a very literal way.

That is, for me, the heart of the Christmas message. God, too, loves us so much that he came to be with us in a very literal way. Rather than just watching us from afar or trying to direct our lives from a distance, God came down to our level. God came down from heaven to crawl around in the muck of our messy lives. God came to play with us and lead us and love us on our level. In the child of Bethlehem God comes to us to be with us as one of us. Our God is not one who is distant, but rather is a God who is near to us. He is Immanuel. And I can't imagine any greater love than that.



May you know the presence of God through the Christ Child in your life in this Christmas season and always.

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.3, 2020**

Both Pastor Knowles and Teri Griebel will be on vacation through the holidays from Dec. 30 through Jan. 3, 2020. The office will re-open on January 6 with Pastor back in the office.

For pastoral emergencies, please contact Pastor Witkowski from First Lutheran Church on his cell phone – 563-370-8919.

Don't Forget!



The **ANNUAL REPORT** information is due in the church office by Sunday, **December 29**. You may either put your reports in my mailbox by the Upper room or you may email your reports to:

secretary@calvarymoline.org.

The **ANNUAL MEETING** will be held in Erlander Hall after worship on **Jan. 26, 2020**.

****COMMUNION ATTENDANCE**** Please remember to fill out a communion card at least once each year. A record of communion attendance is required to determine eligibility to vote at congregational meetings.



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

✳ Dear Calvary Family, Thank you and Mary Ann for keeping me up to date on all your various and mighty activities. You are in my thoughts and prayers daily. Please pray for me and my upcoming knee surgery on Dec. 16. I miss you all very much.

----Happy Christmas to you all, Love, Arla Olson

✳ Thank you to my Calvary family for your cards, prayers and food given to me after my knee surgery. I really appreciated your thoughtfulness.

---- Love, Debbie Faith

✳ Greetings to all and thanks for a great celebration! Wow! November 3rd was a real “Mountain Top” experience! All of you did a great job and I’m so glad I got to come. Wish I would have been able to talk to everyone but there just wasn’t time.

----God Bless, Love & Prayers, Lorraine

✳ We really enjoyed the festivities on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 2 & 3, 2019. It was wonderful to see & visit with so many people. The committee did a great job putting together memorable moments for all to enjoy. It was nice to see the church so full on Sunday. Shirley & Howard would have Loved to be part of the celebration. Thanks again for all of the hard work & great organizing to pull off a truly meaningful 100th Anniversary Celebration.

----Pat, Greg & Gina Lofgren

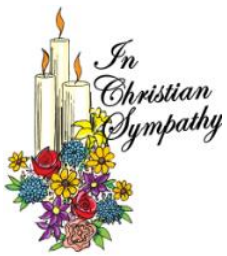


MOLINE BOYS CHOIR
at CALVARY

The **Moline Boys** Choir will perform at Calvary. Karl Bodenbender, former organist of Calvary is now their director. The performances are free and open to the public.

- **Saturday, Dec. 21** – Christmas Vespers Part 1, at 7 p.m.
- **Sunday, Dec. 22** – Christmas Vespers Part 2, at 3 p.m.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE - for **FEBRUARY** is **January 9** for distribution on January 23. 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.



We offer our sympathies and prayers to Joan Winter, family and friends. Dale Winter passed away on December 14th. Funeral services were held at Calvary on December 20th. May you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

WELCA - All Calvary women are invited.



- ❄ **Deborah Circle** – will **NOT** meet in January
- ❄ Our next meeting is **February 4** in the Upper Room
- ❄ **HAPPY HOOKERS** - will meet on January 29th in Erlander Hall.

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.

In Christ's service, Greg Johnson

Calvary Lutheran Church Blood Drive will be held on Tuesday, **January 21st** 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



LUNCH BUNCH



Lunch Bunch will meet Tuesday, January 21st at 11:00 a.m. with Greg & Karla Kirkwood-Johnson presenting a program on their recent trip to India. 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. If you have not allocated your funds for 2019 you have until the end of March to do so.



THANK YOU... TO EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED THE Christmas Potluck on Sunday, Dec. 15th !!! The food was plentiful and delicious, and we enjoyed having so many guests with us. Special thanks to everyone who brought food and cookies.

HAPPY HOOKERS



For 31 years a group of chatty happy gals have been meeting in the basement of Calvary. You will find some are crocheting, using sewing machines, some pinning and tying quilts. Some matching up material to make a quilt. One job we all enjoy is our coffee time. We are again pleased to distribute items so they know they are not forgotten to:

- Heartland – 20 lap robes
- Hope Creek – 20 Lap robes
- Illini Restorative Care – 20 lap robes
- Pregnancy Center – 15 baby sets
- Bethany Home – 15 baby sets
- Christian Care, RI – 20 hats and scarves
- Moline Police Dept for homeless – 6 blankets and 14 scarves

We made up 14 bags for our shut-ins. Each containing a lap robe or shawl and a pair of slippers. Some treats and a Blue Bird of Happiness.

Thank you to all the gals who work so hard on these projects especially Gisele and Chris who work like machines and keeps us on the hunt for yarn sales.

Thank you all for your donations of \$50 for our yarn fund. Thank you also to all who have helped with the deliveries. All are invited to come join us in our many projects. If you can smile, laugh, talk and enjoy coffee time you qualify. Yes, we are the Happy Hookers.

---- Love and Hugs, Marilyn Mudd

ONLINE GIVING 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.

**2020
USHER-COUNTER
SCHEDULE**



I have placed the 2020 Usher and Counter Schedule in your boxes. Counters/Ushers, please watch the monthly Servant Calendar and/or Announcements for any changes that may arise to avoid duplication on a Sunday with Asst. Ministers and Counters. We now have (2) openings on two teams. If you would like to volunteer or serve on two (2) teams, please let me know. Thank You.



Offering the sign of Peace

If you are just getting over or feel like you may be coming down with a cold or cough but are not running a fever and are at service. Just place your arms across your chest to indicate you don't want to shake hands or give a hug, you can still give a big smile and verbally wish them well. Remember there is hand sanitizer available for your use. Best wishes for a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year. ---Becki Maxson



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 subscription, please use Other on your offering envelope with Living Lutheran and Amount. Any help you can provide toward your subscription to *Living Lutheran* would be greatly appreciated.



Puzzle!

Use the word list to complete the crossword. Then fill in the numbered blanks to read God's promise to Noah — and to us.

as, and, the, day, cold, long, heat, will, earth, night, never, cease, winter, summer, harvest, endures, seedtime

“ 13 8 13 10 7 14
 _____ , _____
 2 6 5 9 6
 _____ , _____ , _____
 3 12 6 1 down 4
 _____ ”
 6 11 across 1 across 11 down 15

GENESIS 8:22, NIV

Answer: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." Genesis 8:22, NIV