

Calvary Courier

January 2022

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor,

The following is from the December 23, 1989 "Saturday Sermon" column by Robert Lind of the Somerset Daily American (Somerset, Pennsylvania). I believe I've shared this story with you at some point, but I think it bears repeating.

They called him Big John. He was big for his age. And, he liked his nickname. John, 16, [also had a mental disability].

Big John was in Sunday School and church every Sunday. Many people in the church didn't quite know how to deal with him. John was always friendly, as many special people are. But many people of the church were uncomfortable around this awkward, overgrown young fellow. Let's say the people of his church tolerated him, but they didn't really accept him.

The church decided their youth would put on a Christmas pageant. John begged for a part in the play. The pageant committee was horrified at the thought. But Big John pleaded and coaxed. Finally, the committee thought they found a safe role for him. They gave him the part of the innkeeper. They thought it would be safe because Big John had only one line to say in the play. It was simple. He was to say to Mary and Joseph, "Begone. There is no room for you in my inn."

The director, with help from the rest of the committee, drilled John for weeks. Rehearsals came and they discovered their work had paid off. On cue, and every time, Big John gave his line without stumbling. He was so proud.

Then came the night of the pageant. The church was packed. No one was more excited than Big John. None were more nervous than the committee members back stage. But John played his part perfectly. In fact, they couldn't have found a better innkeeper. At the appropriate moment, in his big, deep voice John boomed out, "Begone There is no room for you in my inn"

Mary and Joseph dropped their heads and slowly turned away. Then something happened that was not in the script. Instead of going offstage after he said his line, Big John watched as Joseph and Mary turned away sadly.

Watching them the tears came to Big John's eyes. He started to sob. His big frame shook. He rushed across the stage and grabbed Mary and Joseph. The committee members standing backstage froze. They didn't know what was going to happen. They feared Big John had gone berserk. With tears streaming down his cheeks, John put his big arms around Mary and Joseph and hugged them. Then through his tears, he said, "I didn't mean it. I'm sorry. I'm sorry I said that. Mary and Joseph, you don't have to go. You can have my room!"

There wasn't a dry eye in the audience that night. Old timers said it was the most moving rendition of the Christmas pageant they had ever witnessed.

A friend told me this story. He said it was true

Perhaps this Christmas we should learn the language of the heart and the Spirit, rather than follow the conventional lines of the human script. The fruits of the vineyard are given to those who know the owner.

Big John knows the owner.

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 service at 4:00 p.m. or St. James Evening service at 7:00 p.m.

Happy Birthday to:



- 4 – John Mudd
- 7 – Gordon Nelson
- 14 – Rev. Don Knowles
- 16 – Ann Donahue
- 18 – Brianna Griebel
- 20 – Sandy Ohrn

21 – Pam Ohrn, Carl Lundstrom

CALVARY'S PRAYER LIST

The following individuals need to be uplifted in prayer:

Let us remember all those who have suffered loss on December 10th during the tornado outbreak. Connie Langston, Becky Maxson and Ali Griebel recovering from surgery. Lisa & Kurt Dicks, LaVerne Knipe, Dave Menke battling cancer, Cindy Pham, Allen & Joyce Faust, Kenalene Forbeck, Audrey Laabs, Pete Lingris & family, Bev & Ken Oller, Karen Moore, Gerda Schmeltzer, Dorothy Hultgren, Randy Kirkwood



OFFICE HOURS & CLOSED from Dec. 24 – Jan. 2, 2022

Teri Griebel will be in the office from 9 am to 1 pm December 20 through December. 23; and on vacation from December. 24 thru January, 2.

Pastor Knowles will be on vacation from December. 27 through January. 2.

The office will re-open on January. 3.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON DECEMBER 19TH

After worship on Sunday, December 19th, we will meet in Erlander Hall for our Christmas Luncheon.



ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE Monday, JANUARY 3rd




This year the Annual Report deadline is January 3rd. Please have all reports. into the office or emailed to the church office.


Annual Meeting is January 30, 2022 after worship in Erlander Hall.




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

 Thank you for your prayers while I had my knee surgery and recovery. So far, I am doing extremely well with no signs of infections.


---- Love and Merry Christmas, Alli Griebel

 We deeply appreciate the kindness support, and love you've shown us. Thank you so much for making our dream comes true!


---- recipient of home from Habitat for Humanity

 Happy Hookers – Thank you so much for the beautiful quilt for Baby Knowles. It will be of great use with this winter baby. We can't wait to introduce him soon!

---- KRae, Nathan, Baby Boy Knowles

 Thanks so much for your donation to Youth Hope Food Pantry. We sincerely appreciate the contribution.

----God Bless! Youth Hope Staff

 Thank you for your generous contributions to the 43rd and 44th Annual "Stamp-Out Cancer" Auctions. Your philatelic material was sold at the Auctions for a total amount of \$3.00. This year's events, which were held on June 19 and October 9, 2021 together raised about \$21,300.00.

---- Sincerely, Leen & Linda IntVeld,
Auction Coordinators, Quad City Stamp Club



NEW ADDRESSES

Gerda Schmeltzer is still living at The Fountains. Her mail is being diverted to her son's address:

4858 Blackhawk Trail Ct., Bettendorf, IA 52722

Siri Markuson – 831 Williamsburg Road,
Winfield, TN 37892

DECEMBER SERVICE PROJECT

Our Service project for December will be a glove/mitten tree in the Narthex. We will collect all sizes of these and they will be taken to local schools. This is something that the schools all said they could use since so many kids go without.



JOINT BLOOD DRIVE

Calvary Lutheran/1st Baptist Church Joint Blood Drive will be held at 1st Baptist Church on Tuesday, January 25, 2022 from 3:00 to 6:30 pm. Please contact Ted Jackson at 309-230-6136 for donation appointment.



Pastor Quentin and Sandy Fleming grandson, Zachary, was involved in a serious motorcycle/car accident. He was on the motorcycle. He had a broken pelvis, femur and severe brain damage, though he was wearing a helmet. On Sunday December 12, Calvary received a text from Sandy that Zachary's parents were saying goodbye to him as they took him off life support and were donating his organs and tissues to help 20 people.



NewsLetter
DEADLINE

FEBRUARY Newsletter Deadline Tuesday, January 18

All articles for the February newsletter should be emailed to the church office or placed in my box by **Tuesday, January 18th**.

The February Newsletter will be mailed or placed in your mailboxes on Thursday, January 27th.

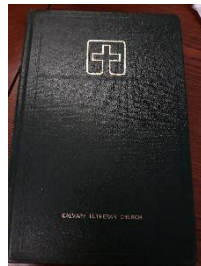
If you would like to send a card:

Quentin and Sandy Fleming (grandparents)
19534 Salado Creek Court, Cypress, TX 77433

James and Suzanne Arensdorf (Zachary's parents)
19534 Salado Creek Court, Cypress, TX 77433

GREEN LBW HYMNAL

Just a reminder that if you have not returned the church's green hymnal that was used for parking lot services please do so and place them on the cart in the narthex. Thank you.



NEED CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS



As 2021 draws to a close, 2022 begins a new year at Calvary. We are looking for volunteers from the congregation to fill expiring terms on council. If you are interested please contact Pastor Knowles. We are also in need of volunteers as assembly members.

*Removal of
the Greens*



UNDECK the Halls...

We will take down the Christmas decorations after service on January 9th. Please stay and help out. Many hands make light work.

Serving CAFÉ on VINE



Please mark your 2022 calendars for the following dates:
February 19, 2022, June 18, 2022
and September 17, 2022.

Happy Hookers - We deserve a vacation! Stay home and think about your family and holidays. Eat some cookies and relax. We deserve it. But January is coming and back to work and of course



As the dates get closer, please watch Newsletters and Bulletins for more information. Volunteers needed for the following:

- Homemade cookies
- prepare and package the food on the Friday before
- help with serving on Saturday



We are still collecting cancelled stamps, especially Christmas stamps. Please place your stamps in the basket next to the windows in the upstairs hallway.

FOUND a SET OF KEYS

On Monday, December 13, a set of keys were found in the parking lot. Please call the church office, if they are yours.





We have openings in **December**. If you would like to volunteer for the following Sundays. Please let Teri know by notifying the church office either by calling the church office at (309) 762-5423 or by email at secretary@calvarymoline.org.

- December 19 – L & CA – Sandy Ohrn
- December 24 – L & CA – Barb and Joe Geerts
- December 26 – CA – Sandy Ohrn

JANUARY remains OPEN

- January 2**
- January 9 – Renee Ketelsen
- January 16 – Val Daniel
- January 23**
- January 30 - (Please note Annual Meeting)**

To everyone who has responded during the last several months, **Thank You**

For Counters, I have included December and January-2022. If you are unable to count, please find a replacement and let Teri know in the church office. Also, on November 30, I emailed the Counter Schedule for the entire year. If you did not receive, please let me know. Teri

DECEMBER COUNTER SCHEDULE

- December 19 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston
- December 26 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase

JANUARY 2022 SCHEDULE

- January 2 – Charlene Lundstrom & Vicki McAlister
- January 9 – Paul Levesque & Barb Geerts
- January 16 – Debbie Faith & Teri Griebel
- January 23 – Gary Gross & Steve Faith
- January 30 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston

ROADSIDE THOUGHTS :

- Having trouble sleeping? Try one of our sermons.
- Lord, Help us to be the people our dogs think we are.
- Cats have 32 muscles in each ear... All to help them ignore you.

HUMOR

- **How does a dog stop a video?**
He presses the paws button
- **What do you call lending money to a bison?**
A buff-a-loan
- **What did one hair say to the other?**
It takes two to tangle
- **Where do you learn to make banana splits?**
In sundae school
- **What is the surest way to double your money?** Fold it!
- **Why couldn't the sesame seed leave the gambling casino?** Because he was on a roll.
- **What animals are on leagal documents?**
Seals!
- I'm not clumsy. It's just that the floor hates me, the tables and chairs are bullies, and the wall gets in the way..
- Yesterday I saw a guy spill a bunch of Scrabble letters on the road. I asked him, 'What the word on the street?'
- Everything comes to he who waits...grey hair, false teeth and a pot belly.
- A good friend is one who thinks you're a good egg, even though you might be slightly cracked.
- I was standing in line at the bank and the man ahead of me said, "Could you check my balance?" So I pushed him.
- The dog park is a great place to meet New friends and wreck New shoes.
- As you get older, your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
- A 6-year-old was over heard reciting the Lord's Prayer at a church service, "And forgive us our trash passes, as we forgive those who passed trash against us."
- Six-year-old Angie, and her four-year-old brother, Joel, were sitting together in church. Joel gighed, sang and talked out loud. Finally, his big sister had had enough. "You're not suppose to talk out loud in church." "Why? Who's going to stop me?" Joel asked. Angie pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two men standing by the door? They're hushers."