

# Calvary Courier

## October 2019

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor:

I recently shared the following story at the conclusion of a sermon. It is called *The Weight of a Snowflake*. (I don't know to whom to attribute the story. I first heard it years ago and there are a number of versions on the internet.)

"Tell me the weight of a snowflake," a sparrow asked a wild dove.

"Nothing more than nothing," was the answer.

"In that case I must tell a marvelous story," the sparrow said. "I sat on a branch of a fir tree, close to its trunk, when it began to snow, not heavily, not a giant blizzard, no, just like in a dream, without any violence. Since I didn't have anything better to do, I counted the snowflakes settling on the twigs and needles of my branch. Their number was exactly 3,741,952. When the next snowflake dropped onto the branch – nothing more than nothing, as you say – the branch broke off."

Sometimes the needs of this world can seem so immense that we cannot even begin to imagine how we can make a difference. They are so big and we are so small. What can I possibly do?

The story of the weight of a snowflake reminds us that when taken together, all the little things can make a huge difference. That is true for us as individuals and as congregations. I'm certain that in discussions about the big, important congregations of the ELCA neither Calvary nor St. James would be mentioned. But that does not mean that what we do is insignificant.

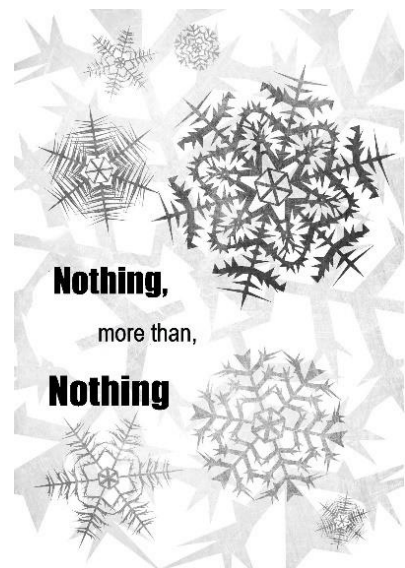
As the assembled people of God, for instance, we help the hungry and homeless of our communities and support each other in life's joys and trials. And as our offerings are joined with others of our synod we enable children to go to summer camp, we are

present in Springfield to advocate for justice for all God's people, we provide a church home-away-from-home through Grace Place Lutheran Campus Ministry at NIU, we help bring the word of God to new worshiping communities and help revitalize the ministry of struggling congregations., and more. Then, as our mission support from the Northern Illinois Synod is joined with the support of other synods we provide disaster relief for victims of tornadoes and hurricanes, we help feed the hungry around the globe, we bring the word of God to people who have not heard it before, we share the love of God with prisoners, refugees, the sick and the dying, and we help develop new pastors and church leaders so that the word of God will continue to be proclaimed for the generations that follow. These are but a few of the things that our simple offering – seemingly nothing more than nothing – does to make the world a better place.

Please know that no matter what the size of your offering may be, together in the hands of God these "snowflakes" are making a big difference in the world.

In Christ,

*Pastor Knowles*



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

## A BIG THANK YOU –

Happy Birthday to:



- 1 – Brett Daniel
- 3 – Dylan James Gross  
– Robert Fuller
- 6 – Jack Gross
- 8 – Joyce Armstrong, Matt Mudd, Mike Mudd
- 9 – Jeanette Wren
- 11 – Beverly Boyle
- 14 – Connie Langston
- 20 – Norm Carbiener
- 22 – Matthew Geerts
- 25 – Bruce Daniel
- 27 – Gloria Fortin
- 28 – Dick Jensen
- 30 – Lorraine Beckingham

Happy Anniversary to:



- 15 – Tim & Margo Miller (1977)
- 19 – Jim & Linda Johansen (1996)
- 27 – Peter & Sheila Doering (1974)
- 28 – Roger & Karen Thorsvold (1967)
- 30 – Steve & Kimmi Miller (2010)

### CHURCH Potluck PICNIC



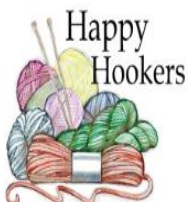
Thank you to everyone who came to the picnic on September 15<sup>th</sup>. We had plenty of good food and fellowship. Thank you to Paul Levesque for making the reservations for us; to Debbie Faith, Mary Ann Behrens and Pam Gross for getting the Bingo prizes.

### LUNCH BUNCH

Tuesday, October 15 at 11:00 am



Come for a delicious lunch and fellowship. Why not invite your friends and neighbors – a way to show all are welcome at Calvary! Program to be announced.



**Happy Hookers** – will meet at 9:30 on October 30. All women are invited for a morning of creative activities, food and fellowship. This group always meets on the last Wednesday of the month.

A BIG Thank You goes to the following people who have worked tirelessly on getting our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary History and Directory/Booklet ready for the November 3rd celebration:

✿ To Barb Geerts for writing the history of Calvary each month for the newsletter and the big push at the end to make sure decades 2000 and 2010 made it into the office on time. You did a great job pouring over old annual reports and newsletters;

✿ To Paul Levesque, who was also planning Chelsea's wedding, did a great job getting Barb's history into Lifetouch's software and to insert as many of the pictures as he could into the articles;

✿ To MaryAnn Behrens and Pam Gross who brought in pictures from home to help fill in needed photographs for the directory; and to Pam Gross for making sure all the revisions to the first proof had been completed on Sept. 19;

✿ To Steve Faith for helping with the photos in the basement, for being patient with Debbie while she was upstairs working and helping Jeremiah Griebel find a different vehicle;

✿ To Greg Johnson who came into the office to scan a few slides that were found in the basement;

✿ To Pastor Don who helped with downloading and worked on the program to make sure all errors had been taken care of so the final directory could be submitted to Lifetouch; and

✿ **Finally** to Debbie Faith and Connie Langston. These two worked as ONE during the last two weeks in August. They spent many hours in the office going through photographs and inserting them into Lifetouch's software to turn our church directory into our 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary/Directory Booklet. This was a BIG JOB and you couldn't have asked for a better team than Debbie and Connie!

What team players Calvary has and it shows in the work each of you do. Whether you are taking care of lawn at church, on a committee, helping on Sunday mornings, serving meals at Mt. Zion, Café on Vine or Habitat for Humanity; knitting hats or making quilts or just being a FRIEND – You are Calvary!



**During the month of September, we received the following word of thanks....**

☀ I would like to thank my Calvary Family for the phone calls, cards and visits while I have been laid up for the last several months. Even though I may not physically be at church on Sunday mornings, know that I have been keeping you in my prayers.

----Kay Chase

☀ Calvary Church, Thank you for all the boxes of cereal. Always a need for the Food Pantry shelves, and wants/desired for customers.

----In Season, Youth Hope Food Pantry

☀ Calvary Lutheran, Thank you for thinking of Youth-Hope Food Pantry. Your ongoing donation really helps to keep our food pantry shelves stocked.

--- Sincerely, Your Youth Hope Food Pantry

☀ Dear Friends of Calvary Lutheran Church On behalf of all of us at Café on Vine, I'd like to express our heartfelt appreciation for the check in the amount of \$525.00 to assist us at Café on Vine. We are grateful for your generous support as we partner to feed the hungry of our community.

----God bless, Waunita M. Sullivan, Exe. Dir.

**ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU...**

Back in March and April, Gary Gross took the slide trays that were found in the basement home to digitize. These pictures depicted the life of Calvary and its members, including the building of the Superstructure and the new addition. Photos of these slides have been used in the Newsletters, the Anniversary booklet and for other purposes.

Greg Johnson then took these same digitized pictures, went over them and created CD slide shows, which are being shown in the Upper room. Greg is now digitizing more slides that Debbie Faith came across in the basement.

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Information:**  
**For OCTOBER 2019 – we will be collecting 100 boxes of Boxed Pasta.**



**HEAR YE – HEAR YE**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR OCTOBER 6<sup>TH</sup>**

**REV. PHIL ERLANDER & POTLUCK**

As part of our 100<sup>th</sup> Celebration, Rev. Phil Erlander will preach on October 6th. Rev. Phil is the son of Rev. Emory Erlander who served as Pastor for 14 years, from 1940 through 1953.

A potluck dinner will follow worship in Erlander Hall to welcome him back to Calvary.

Meat dishes will be provided by the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee. Everyone else is asked to bring either a salad, vegetable or dessert.



**WELCA NEWS:**

All ladies of the church are welcome to attend

- ❖ **Deborah Circle** – Meets Tuesday, October 1 – at 9:00 am in the Upper Room.

**CHURCH WORK DAY – OCTOBER 5**

There will be a work day planned for Saturday, October 5 starting at 8:00 a.m. Trimming trees, sidewalks and bushes along with general cleaning in the building.



**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**



For **November** is no later than October 10 **for** distribution on October 24. Please have your articles to me on time. You may email or put your articles in my box.

**CALVARY'S YARD....**

Have you noticed the bushes, the grass and other little things around the church this past summer? Actually, there is a small crew of dedicated members who have taken this on. Kirk & Renee Ketelsen have driven in from Geneseo to trim bushes and mow; along with Gary Gross and Joe Geerts. Charlene Lundstrom made sure the flower pots were planted.

Thanks for making the church look its best!

**20 years of Ministry  
Celebrating - Pastor Stacie Fidler –  
20 years at St. John's Rock Island**

On Saturday, October 26 at 6 pm, St. John's Lutheran Church, Rock Island is hosting a catered, buffet dinner in honor of Pastor Stacie Fidler's 20 years of ministry at St. John's.

Pastor Stacie was a recipient of Calvary's scholarship while at seminary. The cost of the meal is \$15 for adults, \$10 for children 10 & under. Information is on the bulletin board. **Reservations due by October 7.**

**SAVE THE DATE**

**100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
will be November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019.**

**We are trying to get an estimate** on the number of attendees for the catered banquet. If you are planning on coming please let Teri, Charlene or Connie know or you may call the church office (309) 762-5423. There is no cost to this event, but a free-will offering will be accepted. We are hoping for a Great turnout. If you still have contact with past Calvary members please invite them to this event.

Worship will be held at 10:30 am with Bishop Clements as our guest preacher. After worship, our catered banquet will be held downstairs in Erlander Hall.

**Prior to the big celebration,**  
One more event has been planned:

**THROWBACK SUNDAY**

**Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 am**

Everyone is encouraged to dress in any decade period costume from 1919 to present day on that Sunday. The committee picked a fall date as the earlier decades were usually long dresses/skirts and long sleeve blouses and October would be much cooler.

**MORE PHOTO'S in the Life of Calvary**



Marilyn Mudd and Lorraine Beckingham



Recognize these 3....

## Calvary History - 2010-2019 – Decade 10

As members of a denomination steeped in tradition, there is a running joke among Lutherans that we are deathly afraid of change. But Calvary's parishioners managed to actually *embrace* some major changes that came our way in the past decade.

Perhaps the most significant occurred in 2017, when we entered into a shared ministry with St. James Lutheran Church in Rock Island. Pastor Donald Knowles, who joined our congregation in 2010,

applauded the decision in his annual report. "When St. James ... was struggling



and debating their future, the people of Calvary opened their hearts by deciding to share pastoral ministry. It was not something that we had to do to survive, but rather it was something we needed to do because it was the right thing," he stated. While the partnership did require some adjustment in worship schedules (we moved from a 10 a.m. service to 10:30), it has been beneficial for both churches.

The year 2017 was noteworthy for us in another way: It marked the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther's Reformation Movement which launched the Protestant church to which we belong (there's that tradition again). Calvary observed the anniversary by participating in an historic event that brought together Lutheran and Catholic churches in the City of Moline for a joint celebration—the first of its kind in the Quad-Cities area. It was symbolic of a global movement to reconcile Lutherans and Catholics after five centuries of discord and distrust.

Reaching *out* and drawing others *in* has been the mission of this congregation for a century now. And while we are small in size, we have something special to offer.

Pastor Knowles noticed that "something special" not long after he arrived. He admitted that in the beginning, one thing that troubled him was the fact that nearly everyone entered the church building through the non-descript "back door." But as he spoke with parishioners during cottage meetings, he realized that the back door was a "perfect symbol for who God has called us to be." After all, he noted, guests are usually ushered in through the front door.

The back door—*that's* for family and close friends. At Calvary, "there is a deep sense of commitment and caring by and for each other," said Pastor Don, who added that the Greek word to describe that is "koinonia." "(Here) that sense of koinonia is shared with everyone, whether they are long-time members, new members, or visitors who happened through our doors ... because they thought we were the Baptist church. God has blessed us with the gift of hospitality."

Indeed, we have earned the reputation of being a friendly, back-door kind of congregation!

Still, motorists zipping along busy Avenue of the Cities often did not even know we were here—until the purchase of the adjacent Marshall Beauty building allowed us to open up the area to the east of our structure. In 2011, the owner of the property offered to sell it to Calvary at the bargain price of \$50,000, and the congregation jumped at the chance.

Initial plans were to tear down all but the garage structure, or build another garage on the site, but city codes governing the capping of utilities complicated the process. So the land was left vacant and seeded.



Pastor Knowles noted at the time that the acquisition of the property "provides us an opportunity with almost endless possibilities." Part of his vision for improvements to the east included a new handicapped-accessible entrance with an elevator, a circle drive, and additional parking—all of which would make our activities more visible to passersby. However, preliminary drawings put the estimated costs at \$343,000, so our church leaders are mulling other options.

The church's ownership of adjacent rental property ended during this decade. The two homes across the alley on 30<sup>th</sup> Street which had been purchased by Calvary a few years earlier were sold, as it was decided that maintaining them was too costly and time-consuming. There were also plans to sell the vacant house to the south that the church had owned for many years (the Beckingham home). However, it was determined the house could not be

marketed without major repairs. In late 2014, an anonymous donor in the congregation offered to pay for demolition of the home and grading of the lot so it could be used for additional parking in the future. The congregation voted to have the home razed.

At one point, a portion of the Beckingham property had been used for a "community outreach" vegetable garden. Some of the items grown were given directly to those in need, and others were sold to congregational members, with the proceeds benefitting local food pantries. More than \$500 was raised in one season. The property was graded and seeded after the demolition of the home.

Parishioners continued their community outreach during these years with a variety of programs and projects. These included: "Fundies for Undies" to benefit Jefferson Early Childhood Center; collections of backpacks, shoes and underwear for orphans in Romania; packaging thousands of meals for Kids Against Hunger; the "Flood Bucket" project with St. James; and a "Buy the Farm" program where members "purchased" 30 chicks, three ducks, two pigs, three goats, one sheep, one alpaca and a cow to help sustain families in Third-World countries. And there was the 2011 "Miracle on the Avenue," when we beat a seemingly impossible goal and brought in 5,400 cans of soup to be distributed to

local food pantries. (Now that's oodles of noodles!) We continue filling our collection buckets in the hallway and the grocery cart in the narthex to benefit



local food pantries. (Now that's oodles of noodles!) We continue filling our collection buckets in the hallway and the grocery cart in the narthex to benefit

a number of non-profit groups. Finally, as part of our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we have been supporting the "Making 100 Count" project, collecting one hundred items of a select food (i.e., peanut butter, canned meats, etc.) each month for local food pantries.

The evening Knit-A-Bit group was started a few years ago to give the Happy Hookers an assist, and together the groups continue to create items to keep our shut-ins and those in need feeling warm and



Gisele Richardson

loved. "We are very fortunate to have a couple of gals who feel crocheting is the best medicine, so we make sure they have all the yarn prescriptions

they need," said HH director Marilyn Mudd. The Middlers (formerly known as the Married Couples and Pairs and Spares) voted to disband in 2014, but its members continue to plan congregational events. Lunch Bunch was launched as another way to welcome others in for fellowship and food (always there is food!).

When Immanuel Lutheran church in East Moline closed in 2014 we received a number of their members. They have become a blessing to our congregation.

There have been many facility improvements during the past decade. A new roof was installed over the pastor's office, and a new metal roof over the sanctuary was



installed in 2013 after it received hail damage. The "Daily Bread" mural in Erlander Hall was created as a memorial, and the WELCA group replaced the tile in the Upper Room kitchen, as well as the downstairs kitchen/hallway and portions of Erlander Hall. The wooden "back doors" were replaced with glass double doors, and that entryway enhanced. New furnace and air conditioning units were installed on the building addition.

We sadly said goodbye to our very capable and caring parish nurse, Jenny Henderson, in 2014, and struggled to find another one—and the means to pay that person for this vital ministry. Becki Maxson was an answer to prayer as she offered to serve us on a volunteer basis. Becki has been with us since 2017. Our administrative assistant, Teri Griebel, came on board at the beginning of the decade—just in time to also lend her voice to the choir’s first Christmas Cantata program. Under the direction of Linda Johansen, the choir’s nearly annual cantatas (we skipped 2017) have drawn praise from members who are often surprised at the wonderful sound this small group of dedicated singers can produce.

With praise and thanksgiving, Calvary was able to begin its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year observance with a

mortgage burning that left our congregation debt-free, thanks in part to a major bequest from the estates of Natalie and Alan Johnson, the latter a long-time treasurer of Calvary. Our Endowment Fund has jumped to nearly \$200,000 due to that bequest.



In this milestone anniversary year, we may be tempted to look back on our past and long for the days when the pews were packed and our Sunday School was bursting at the seams. “It can seem like everything was so much better then. Now it can look like we have nothing but challenges,” said Pastor Don. But we are reminded that God can still use us, in this time and place. “While the old may be passing away, see that God is making all things new!

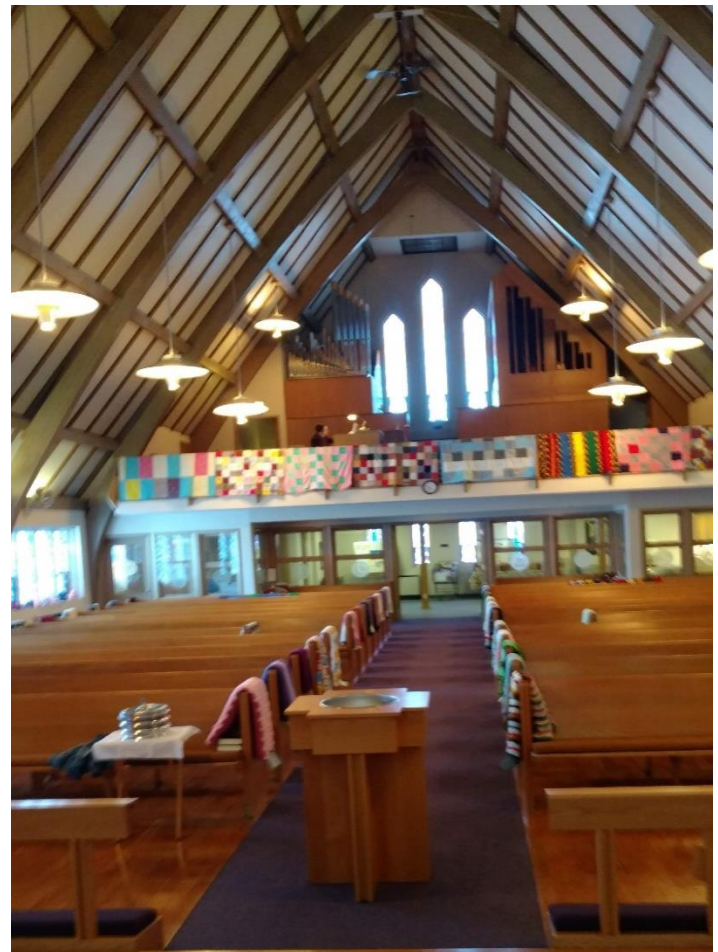
“We are a congregation with the heart of Christ beating within us. We are still a congregation with a mission,” he continued. Yes, Calvary truly is a collaboration of caring, Christian hearts. Calvary is koinonia!

Says Pastor Don: “I’ve been in other congregations that claim to care for each other and welcome the stranger, but I have never been with a group of people who do it as well as you do. You, the family of God at Calvary Lutheran Church, are our greatest asset.”



Top: Baby Hats and blankets;  
Bottom: quilts and crochet lap blankets

Made by the Happy Hookers



# Various pictures taken throughout Anniversary Year



Christmas at Calvary



Gary Gross (2<sup>nd</sup> on right,) looking perplexed, while Greg Johnson (3<sup>rd</sup> on right) seems to have figured it out - Trivia Night – Feb. 2019



Easter Morning at Calvary



Table 3 - Trivia Night – Feb. 2019



Ice Cream Social – August 17, 2019