

Calvary Courier

November 2019

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor:

As I considered what I wanted to say in my letter to you this month I began to search scripture for a text that would convey my thoughts. And, quite frankly, I didn't find a single concise passage to meet that need. That isn't to say that my point is not supported by scripture, but rather that it would take a more extensive study of several passages or books than there is space or time available here.

The closest passage I came up with that would begin to address my point is this parable from Luke 13:

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The point of the parable is about patience. In this instance it is about the patience of God giving his people time to bear fruit.

There are, however, multiple passages that encourage God's people to be patience. Consider the story from the exodus when Moses goes up Mt. Sinai to receive the ten commandments. The people grow impatient waiting for Moses to return, and they make a golden calf to worship. Their impatience does not serve them well. The entire book of Revelation, too, is really a plea for God's people to remain patient. The author implores God's people to hang on and trust that God is coming for them despite all the trials and tribulations that they may be experiencing.

Perhaps that most closely reflects my thoughts for you as I write this. We are experiencing all kinds of trials of tribulations in this moment in history. In particular, I am thinking about the coronavirus pandemic. And we are growing impatient. We are, as I hear on the news reports, "covid-fatigued" and want it all to be over. Unfortunately, we don't get to determine when the pandemic is over, and impatience may not serve us well.

I, too, would like everything to get back to normal. But to try return to normal too soon may have serious consequences. We are not immune to the disease. I suspect that between our two congregations we have already lost three members to Covid-19. I am reluctant to take actions that may put more of us at risk of getting sick or worse.

And so, I ask for your patience. We will, I believe, return to some form of normal. But I don't think now is the time. In the meantime, as the Book of Revelation emphasizes, God remains with us through these difficult times and implores us to faithfully, patiently, wait.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles

P.S. I know that at Calvary we are currently discussing returning to indoor worship. Though I obviously have my reservations, I am willing to move forward. However, it is important to understand that worshiping in the sanctuary will require strict adherence to our guidelines for participation and we will suspend indoor worship if our region returns to the phase 3 restrictions.

Please see page 4 for the guidelines

NOVEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

- 4 – Barb Geerts
- 11 – Allen Noftsker
- 12 – Viola Marie Bowser-Smith
- 13 – Paul Levesque
- 14 – Sandy Strosahl
- 20 – Sharon Hough, Ann Lundstrom, Warren Wren
- 24 – Annette Menke, Karyn Hurst
- 26 – Andrew McClanahan
- 27 – Richard Strosahl

Happy Anniversary to:

- 1 – Teri & Dave Griebel (1974)
- 4 – Michael & Kelly Chase (2006)
- 10 – Dick & Connie Jensen
- 15 – Barb & Joe Geerts (1980)

CALVARY'S PRAYER LIST

The following individuals need to be uplifted in prayer:

Dave Menke and Vinh Pham battling cancer. Cindy Pham, Kelly Strand, Bernie and Audrey Laabs, Amy, Pete Lingris & family, Bev & Ken Oller, Karen Moore, Gerda Schmeltzer, Dorothy Hultgren, Marynell Kirkwood, Randy Kirkwood.

Dear Lord, as the leaves begin to turn colors, you are reminding us the fall season is here with winter just around the corner. As the months have dragged on, please help us to stay focused on you. We continue to ask for strength for each of us. Most of all we ask for healing to those named above. This time of year brings its challenges and with Covid19 keeping loved separated is especially hard. Please give comfort to Joe and Barb Geerts on the passing of Joe's father; and to the friends of Kathryn Beardsley. Please be with us as we go forward as the nights become longer and the days shorter. We pray that soon we will be able to worship together as a family in Christ. Continue to guide us in the days ahead and if we falter, renew our spirit with your love. May your loving grace always shine on us. Amen.



We offer our sympathies and prayers to Joe and Barb Geerts on the passing of Joe's father. We also offer our sympathies and prayers to the friends of Kathryn Beardsley. May you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ.



During the month of October, we received the following word of thanks....

☀ Covid 19 has made for a difficult year and have a strong and loving church family has meant so much to our family.

Thank you for all of your prayers, cards, phone calls, thoughts and acts of kindness during our recent loss of Rudy

A special thank you to Pastor Knowles for the special and beautiful service for Rudy and our family.

Also, a special thank you to Marilyn and Candance for preparing and delivering the special funeral banner with Rudy's name to the funeral home.

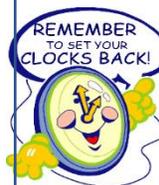
----- God Bless you All, The Ohrn Family

☀ Thank you to all the members for your love and prayers. I appreciated all those who attended Kathryn's service. Kathryn would have been touched by the number of people who attended.

---- Paula Evans and Family

☀ **Thank You** to Fran Freeze, Joan Winter and others who others who have contributed to the Humor column in the newsletter. Keep them coming, though I do have enough to last for several months.

----Teri, Secretary



**DAY LIGHT SAVINGS
TIME ENDS – November 1st**

Remember to turn your clocks back one hour before going to bed on October 31st.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Because of Thanksgiving, the **December** Newsletter will be out on Tuesday, November 24th. All articles for the newsletter should be emailed/mailed to the church office no later **Monday, November 23rd**

WELCA NEWS:



All ladies are invited to attend

Combined WELCA and Deborah Circle will meet Thursday November 5th at 11:30am. in Erlander Hall. Wear a mask, bring your lunch and drink. We will get the items ready to be delivered to the three schools.

Donations for Local School Children

WELCA is collecting items for Roosevelt, Logan and Jefferson Schools.

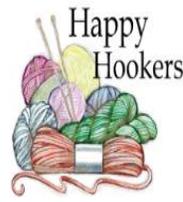
Wanted; Gloves, coats, hats and shoes for K - 5th graders. They do not have to be new. **Roosevelt** would like prepackaged snacks. **Logan** would like masks. The need from **Jefferson** is snow pants sizes 3T - 5T, and boots sizes 11, 12, & 13.

Call Sue Knipe if you have questions or could help shop. 309 738 0415

Food Pantry / Romania Shoes Thank-You

Thanks to all who dropped off food items and shoes the past few months. The shopping cart was full recently, so the food was taken to a food pantry. It is almost full again! Please continue to bring food donations to Calvary on Sunday mornings.

Thank you also for the shoes and money for shipping. From May through October 1st, 39 pairs of shoes were donated for the kids in Romania, and \$200.00 was donated to go toward shipping costs. The shoes are now on their way to Romania, expecting to arrive there in early December. On behalf of the kids in Romania -- thank you, and God Bless. ---- Calvary Council



Happy Hookers

First off I would like to thank all those who have been busy crocheting, especially Gisele and Chris. You have outdone yourselves. We have so many nice things to give to our shut-ins, nursing homes and others

Because of Covid, Happy Hookers will not be meeting, but within a few weeks I will be calling a few people to help sort and package our lap robes and baby sets for distribution. We will need people to volunteer to distribute these items in December.

If in your cleaning you find old blankets, socks, heavy gloves and hats, please drop off at church. We would like to donate them to the Homeless.



SERVICE COMMITTEE

If you would like to help YouthHope with their Holiday Baskets, they are looking for the following items.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 16 oz Mashed Potatoes; | 6 oz of Stuffing (Turkey) |
| 15 oz Canned Peaches | 15 oz Green Beans |
| 6 oz Jello | Corn Muffin Mix |
| Gravy Packets (Turkey) | 15 oz Canned Pumpkin |
| 15 oz Cranberry Sauce | 12 oz Can of Corn |
| 29 oz can of Sweet Potatoes | |

If you do not want to take items to YouthHope – 3928 12th Ave., Moline, you may bring to Calvary and we will take it.



NO POINSETTIAs for Christmas

This year due to the restrictions of church attendance, we will NOT be ordering flowers. However, we will be collecting money to be given to a charity or food pantry. A small form will be included in the December newsletter where you may write in for a Memorial or to Honor that person. This year your loved one will be recognized both in the bulletin and newsletter. More information will be in the December newsletter.

RETURN TO WORSHIP GUIDELINES

As we consider returning to the sanctuary for worship, the following guidelines will need to be followed by all participants.

- Worship will be limited to 50 participants, including worship leaders.
 - Reservations will be required so we don't have to turn people away on Sunday morning.
- Everyone will be required to wear a mask covering the mouth and nose through the entire service. Masks will be available if someone doesn't have one.
- No gathering in the narthex, Upper Room or Erlander Hall, but come in, worship and leave.
- No singing or congregational responses.
- Abbreviated liturgy (maybe 30 minutes total).
- Households would have to sit at least six feet apart. Pews will be marked and/or roped off. People may only sit in designated areas.
- We will use the "communion kits" we are currently using for the parking lot services. Worshipers will pick up a kit when entering the sanctuary to be used in the pews at the appropriate time in the service. We will not have people coming to the communion rail.
- No passing of offering plates. Offering plates will be set at the entrance to the sanctuary.
- Drinking fountains would be turned off.
- Only one person allowed in restrooms at a time.
- No one who has a temperature, Covid-19 symptoms, or been exposed to the virus should attend.
- Guidelines also recommend that people at high risk of serious complications from contracting the virus (including those over 60 years old) not participate.

Please also note:

- We will take appropriate steps to disinfect the building prior to each service. Hand sanitizer would be available.
- We will continue to post worship services online. It may not be available until Sunday evening. We are exploring livestreaming the service.
- An alternate opportunity for communion in the sanctuary will be offered during the week (an "open house" style).

"OPEN HOUSE" COMMUNION

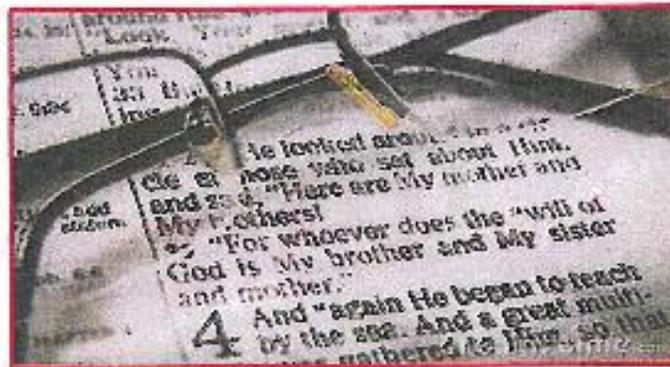
On Monday November 9, from 2:00-3:00 pm, and Monday, November 23, from 6:30 to 7:30 pm, Pastor Knowles will be available in the sanctuary at Calvary to offer communion to anyone who would like to receive it. This is not a regular service, but a time for people to come in, spend a few minutes in prayer and reflection, and receive the sacrament. Those who wish to participate may come anytime during the designated hour. It is important that those who come follow the guidelines for safety including wearing a mask and maintaining social distancing. A brief devotional liturgy will be available.

The same communion opportunity is available at St. James on November 2 (6:30-7:30 pm) and November 16 (2:00 – 3:00 pm).

Because of the tightness of the newsletter, I was unable to fit any Humor in the newsletter. Again, thank you for all the jokes that have been submitted. Until next month....



2020 World Community Day



2020 Vision for the Future *"Resolve to Love"*

Friday, November 6th

9:00am Registration – 9:30am Meeting

Christ United Methodist Church
3801 7th Street
East Moline, IL

Enter building through the Sanctuary doors (under overhang, Door #1)

Bring your World Thank Offering Kits

No food will be served, bring your own drinks and wear your mask

Call Pat Reuter if you have questions, 309-721-4510

Church World Service (CWS) School Kits

- 3 70-count spiral notebooks or notebooks totaling 200-210 pages. (No loose leaf of filler paper.)
- 1 pair blunt metal scissors (rounded tip)
- 1 30-cm ruler (or with inches on one side, centimeters on the other)
- 6 unsharpened pencils with erasers
- 1 hand-held pencil sharpener
- 1 2 ½-inch eraser (rubber, not art gum)
- 1 box crayons (24 crayons only)
- 1 12 x 14 inch or 14 x 17 inch cloth bag with cloth handles (Please, no reusable shopping bags or backpacks.)

Place all items in cloth bag; fold top over and secure with 2 large rubber bands – or a Velcro or snap fastener can be added to the bag.

CWS Hygiene Kits

- 1 hand towel (not guest or bath size)
- 1 washcloth
- 1 new bar of bath size soap in wrapper
- 1 wide-tooth comb
- 1 toothbrush (in original packaging)
- 1 nail clipper (no metal files or emery boards)
- 6 standard size band-aids

Enclose the articles in a 1-gallon size plastic bag with a zipper closure. Remove air from bag and seal.

PLEASE NOTE: CWS hygiene kits no longer contain toothpaste. Cartons of toothpaste that have an extended expiration date will be added to Hygiene Kit shipments just prior to shipment.

Poundage (Shipping & Handling): It is requested that we give \$2.00 for each kit to help defray the cost of getting kits from CWS collection points to the places where they are needed. **Money should be given to the treasurer. Do not put in kit.**

Individual Baby Items: These are kept here in the area. They are taken to the Crisis Pregnancy Center for distribution.

if you would like to donate money
for World Service kits make checks
out to MEMSCU memo W.S.K.
Margaret Baumann
505 E. 5th St.
Coal Valley IL 61240