

Calvary Courier

December 2020

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor:

As I reflect on this year of the pandemic one of the words that comes to mind is “loss.” We have suffered the loss of our mobility – the ability to be out in public the way we would like. We have suffered the loss of social interaction – we haven’t been able to sit down to share a cup of coffee and a donut with our friends the way we used to do. We have suffered the loss of public worship in our sacred places. For many there has been economic loss – the loss of jobs and businesses. And probably most significantly, there has been the loss of life. Our nation has now suffered the loss of over 250,000 people with Covid-19 related disease. And I strongly suspect that, between our two congregations, we have lost at least four members to this virus. This has certainly been a year marked by loss, and it is appropriate that we are sad and frustrated and angry over all this loss. We are mourning.

And the losses are not yet over. I am writing this just a couple days before Thanksgiving, my favorite holiday. Yet this year it will be a small, subdued celebration for most of us. And, while we consider ways to make Christmas special at church (like planning to hold a parking lot service at Calvary on Christmas Eve), it is highly unlikely that we will be able to gather together for our traditional Christmas Eve worship. “Normal” still feels like it is a long way off. The dark times of the pandemic continue.

However, as I was thinking about the Christmas Eve worship, the image of the end of the service came to mind. Following communion, the sanctuary is darkened, and we hear these words,

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.
We have beheld Christ’s glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.
For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.
In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

Then, while singing *Silent Night*, we illuminate the sanctuary with spreading candlelight as if the light of Christ were piercing the darkness.

While “loss” might be the word that comes to mind as we think about 2020, don’t let it be last word. Remember that the heart of Christmas is a light that overcomes darkness. Let the last word be the Word of God that overcomes the darkness and loss of Covid-19 with the light of hope and comfort in the love and mercy of God. The loss and darkness of the pandemic will not last forever, but the promise of God’s presence in our lives does.

If there has ever been a year that we have walked in darkness, this is certainly it. But let us not forget the promise of the Christ Child. Through the child of Bethlehem there is a great light that comes to us, a light which shatters the darkness – a light which is the life of all people.

In Christ,
Pastor Knowles

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PARKING LOT SERVICES
Parking lot services will continue weather permitting
I am planning to hold a **CHRISTMAS EVE** parking lot service at 4:30 pm. Since lighting candles would be difficult, please bring a flashlight.

DECEMBER

Birthdays & Anniversaries

5 – Andrew Levesque, Mary Green
9 – Dawn Levesque
10 – Charlene Lundstrom
13 – Karen Thorsvold
23 – Ian Mudd
25 – Sidney Mudd
28 – Bryan Behrens
30 – Joan Winter

Happy Anniversary to:

7 – Megan & Michael Necessary (2009)

CALVARY'S PRAYER LIST

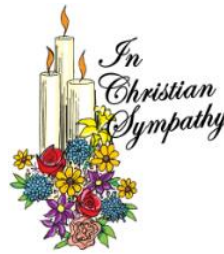
The following individuals need to be uplifted in prayer:

Dave Menke battling cancer. Roger Thorsvold, Cindy Pham, Kevin Freeze, Arla Olson, Amy Ritchie, Kenalene Forbeck, 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 our thoughts turn to the Christmas season, let us remember what you have done within our life. While this past year has brought us both joy and sorrow, you have remained our companion. You have walked beside us when our steps have faltered, and have given us strength to continue on. Please heal those named above and in our hearts. Please give comfort to Cindy Pham on the passing of Vinh and to the family and friends of Lorraine Beckingham. May you continue to comfort those who have lost loved ones this past year; let their holidays be filled with happy memories. Help us keep the four candles of Advent - Hope, Love, Joy and Peace - in our hearts as this year comes to a close. May you continue to hold us in the palm of Your hand. Amen

OPEN HOUSE COMMUNION


Pastor will hold "Open House" communion at Calvary on Dec. 7 from 2:00 – 3:00 and Dec. 14 from 6:30 – 7:30. He will do the same at St. James on Dec. 7 from 6:30 – 7:30 and Dec. 14 from 2:00 – 3:00. (see last month's newsletter for details.)




We offer our sympathies and prayers Cindy Pham, family and friends of Vinh. Vinh passed away on November 12. Private family services were held on Nov. 20. **We also offer our sympathies and prayers** to family and friends of Lorraine Beckingham, who also passed away on November 12. A memorial service will be held sometime in the Spring. Her obituary is on Esterdahl's website. May you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ.




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

 Thank you All! Dave appreciates the prayers, phone calls and cards. He's been in chemo since the end of March and is feeling better. He even is "the ole Dave" on occasions. Thank you to each and every one. See you in Church.


---- Prayers and Peace, Annette Menke

 You made our day! Thank you so much for the generous donation of snacks and hats/gloves for the students at Roosevelt. Your donation means so much to us knowing it will help our students who need a little assistance, especially this year!

----Mrs. Boyle, Roosevelt Elementary

 The board, staff and volunteers at Churches United of the Quad City Area gratefully acknowledge and accept your most generous gift to our Christ-centered mission and CareLINK ministry. This contribution of \$150 to the Moline/East Moline Cluster of Churches helps us to serve families who need assistance with either rent or utilities. Thank you for your thoughtful and caring commitment to help to those among us who are most in need.

---- Rev. Dr. Melvin Grimes, Exe. Dir. and Betsy Vanausdeln, Assoc. Dir.

 Thank you for donating to LOMC's ministry of helping guests of all ages connect with God and each other. Your gift of \$213.33 makes all the difference in helping LOMC thrive.

----Audrey Adams, registration



Congratulations to Steve and Kimmi Miller on the birth of another daughter, Ivy Kathleen on October 6, 2020. She is welcomed by big sisters Addi and Lennon. Grandparents are Margo & Tim Miller and Great Aunt & Uncle, Sue & LaVerne Knipe



CHRISTMAS CARDS – due to the building still being closed due to Covid 19, we are asking you to mail your cards this year. If you are unsure if the person has moved from the 2019 church directory, please call or text Teri at 309-230-2284. I will look up the information and return your call or text.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE



Because of Christmas the **January** Newsletter will be out on **Thursday, December 17** which you should receive no later than Saturday. All articles for the newsletter should be emailed/mailed to the church office no later **Wednesday, December 16.**



Members of Calvary –

It has been a different year for all of us, even the Calvary church council members. We have been meeting monthly throughout the year, first on Zoom, and lately in person in Erlander Hall, spread out all over the room, and all wearing masks. We have been safe and effective this way.

Some of us have terms expiring in January, and we are looking for volunteers from the congregation to join the council. If you are interested, or have any questions about how the council operates, please contact Pastor at 762-5423 or Greg Johnson at 796-0858. Thanks for your consideration. Greg Johnson, Calvary church council president.

NO POINSETTIAs for Christmas

Christian Friendliness Food Panty



Deadline: Wednesday, December 16th.

This year in place of ordering Poinsettia plants, we will be collecting money to be donated to the Christian Friendliness Food Panty at YouthHope. **We are still asking for minimum of \$10 or more.** This year your loved one will be recognized in the January newsletter. The deadline for submission will be **Wednesday, December 16th.**

**Make checks payable to:
Calvary Lutheran Church**

Please complete the appropriate information:

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

Given by _____



WELCA NEWS:

Cookbooks are still for sale. Only \$2. Call Sue Knipe 309 738 0415.

No WELCA in December. Continue to get items for the schools. Call Sue Knipe for details.

PASTOR VACATION



Pastor will be on vacation from December 28 through January 2, 2021. There will be NO Parking lot service or video worship on January 2nd. Please go to saemmoline.org or tlcmoline.org to find a worship service.



Back by popular request – HUMOR Has Returned.....

- A conference call is the best way for a dozen people to say “bye” 300 times.
- The scoutmaster asked, “How could you get lost? Didn’t you have your compass?” “Yes”, the scout replied, “but it kept pointing North when I wanted to go South.”
- When a job application asks who is to be notified in case of emergency. I always write – a Very good doctor.
- This Pastors wife went to her mothers for a few days. While she was gone the Pastor went thru her things. He found a box with three eggs and a wad of money rolled up in a rubber band. About Seven Hundred dollars. When she got home, he told her what he had done. Asked her what the three eggs was about? Wife said every time you preached a bad sermon, I put an egg in the box. Pastor thought that wasn’t bad for Twenty years of preaching. But what about the money? She said when I get a dozen I sold them!!
- Progress is made by lazy people who are looking for an easier way to do things.
- This mother woke up her son on Sunday for church. He says, “I don’t want to go to church.” Mom says, “Give me two good reasons.” He says, “I don’t like the people and they don’t like me.” Mom says, “I’ll give you two good reasons you better get up. Your 45 years old and you’re the Pastor.”
- There was a car of old ladies in their 80s driving down the freeway. A cop pulled them over. He said, “Lady do you know how slow you were driving? Only 35 miles per hour.” The lady said, “that’s the speed limit.” Cop says, “No, its Hwy 35. And why does the lady in the back look so scared?” The lady, “We just got off of Hwy 95!”
- Why are we having Halloween? I’ve been wearing a mask and eating candy for 6 months!
- How can you tell if a vampire has a cold? They start coffin!
- My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, “Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike/ I mentally polished my halo and said, “No, how are we alike?” “You’re both old.”
- For the theme of this years church oicnic, the committee chose “A Walk Down Memory Lane.” That’s why one old timer brought his horse and buggy, he attached a sign that said, “Energy efficient Vehicle. Runs n oats, and grass. Caution do not step in exhaust.
- A Mother asked her son, “What did your father say when you wrecked the new car?” Shall I leave out the swear words?” he replied. “Please,” “Not a thing.”
- Remember the tea kettle, even though its up to its neck in hot warer, it continues to sintg.
- How does a cucumber become a pickle? It goes through a jarring exoerience.
- A team of little animals and a team of big animals decided to play football. During the first half of the game, the big animals were winningl But during the second half, a centipede scored so many touchdowns that the little animals won the game. When the game was over, the chipmunk asked the centipede, “Where were you during the first half” He replied “Putting on my shoes!”
- A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather’s word processor. She told him she was writing a story. “What’s it about?” He asked. “I don’t know,” she replied. “I can’t read.”

Advent Wreath



The Advent wreath is a symbol of watchfulness and increasing joy as we anticipate Jesus’ birth. The wreath’s circular shape symbolizes eternity, or life without end. The candles remind us that Jesus is the Light of the World — he brought light and life to a dark world (see John 1:4-5). On each of the four Sundays of Advent, we light a new candle. As the light grows, so do our hope and joy.