

Calvary Courier

December 2021

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor,

As most of you are likely aware, I am a fan of Hallmark movies. No matter what season of the year, I like to watch Hallmark movies. But I especially like the Christmas movies.

I think for a few years now the Christmas movies on the *Hallmark Channel* (and the *Hallmark Movies and Mysteries Channel* – yes there are two channels to watch), the Christmas movies have begun airing in October. In years past I have chosen not to watch the Christmas movies until after Thanksgiving. A person can only take so much Christmas schmaltz, right?

But this year has been different for me. I record every new 2021 movie, and even some of my old favorites, and watch them. I've been watching Christmas movies for weeks now. My wife just shakes her head and heads to a different TV.

So why is this year different for me? I've wondered the same thing and I think I have an answer.

For those of you who may not be familiar with Hallmark movies I will tell you (and readily admit) that they are all identical. There is the leading man and woman who are forced to connect in some way. Initially they are at odds with each other (for instance, one is part of greedy development firm, the other a local shop owner trying to preserve tradition and history). So, they butt heads. But, over the course of a short period of time they begin to understand each other, to see each other not as the enemy but as a person with a different point of view. They fall in love. However, with 15 minutes left in the movie, some misunderstanding occurs, and they go back to being enemies. But, in Hallmark movies, love must win. In the last 5 minutes the couple realizes that their differences aren't as important as their love, they reconcile, and in the final moments of the movie they kiss.

So, if every Hallmark movie is so identically corny, then why am I hooked?

The answer, I've concluded, is that these movies are all about overcoming misunderstanding, about love, and about hope. And right now, I want life to reflect those values. The world, instead, seems so much to be about power, and control, and hatred, and hopelessness. And so, I watch holding on to the possibility that the world can actually be like a Hallmark movie.

The celebration of Christmas is, likewise, about holding on to the possibility that the world can be about overcoming misunderstanding, about love, and about hope. Jesus came into a world that was focused on power, control, hatred, and despair. And to that world Jesus brought a message of love, forgiveness, and hope. The child in the manger would grow up facing the worst that the world had to offer. And in response he opened his arms to embrace the world with joy and peace and goodwill to all.

It is my prayer for you, and for the world, that this Christmas season may be a Hallmark movie for you – one that overcomes despair and division – and fills us with unity and love and hope. Like Hallmark movies, I hold on to the hope that love must win.

In Christ,

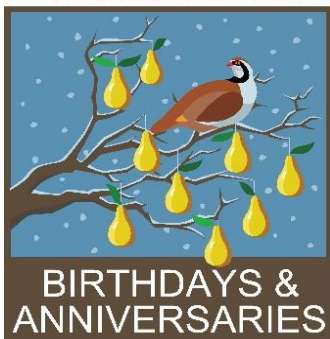
Pastor Knowles



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.

DECEMBER Happy Birthday to:



- 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)



DEADLINE FOR POINSETTIA ORDERS IS December 7TH

Please be sure and have your order forms into the office by **December 7th**. The cost is \$10.00. There was an order form in the November newsletter. You may send an email to secretary@calvarymoline.org or call the church office.

WELCA Christmas Luncheon Thursday, December 9 at NOON



All women are invited to attend our WELCA Christmas luncheon at Noon on Thursday, December 9 at the Windmill Restaurant on Avenue of the Cities, East Moline. We will meet in their banquet room.

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



Teri Griebel will be 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. **FYI** – Annual Report information is Due January 3.

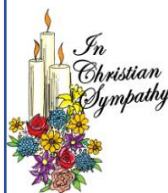
**Don't
Forget!**



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.



We offer our sympathies and prayers to Fran and LeRoy Freeze and friends on the passing of their son, Kevin on November 6. May you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON DEC. 19 at NOON



Reservation Deadline – Dec. 12

Sign-up Sheet on bulletin board or call church office.

Please join us on Dec 19 at Noon in Erlander Hall for our Christmas Luncheon, catered by Hy-Vee. Funds for this catered meal has been provided by Lunch Bunch. The deadline is Dec. 12 for reservations. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board or you may call the church office.

Our menu will be Ham, Baked Chicken, Roasted Red Potatoes, Almond Green Beans and Salad. Beverages will be provided by Calvary. We are asking WELCA to bring either 2 doz. cookies or their favorite dessert to share.

ADDRESS UPDATES:



MaryAnn Behrens: 704 SE Ponds Edge Ln, Ankeny, IA 50024. She will keep her cell phone number.

LeRoy & Fran Freeze: New Perspective – 1900 10th St, #213, Silvis, IL 61282. Phone: 309-278-1405

Val & Bruce Daniel – now have a PO Box. Their address is: PO Box 203, Orion, IL 61273.

CHRISTMAS CARDS



Even though the church has officially opened, we are asking you to mail your Christmas cards for this year. If you are unsure if the person has moved from the 2019 church directory, please call the church office.





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

Kurt & I want to thank everyone for the prayers, cards, phone calls & text messages these past months during my health challenges. The power of your prayers brought peace during difficult times. I felt it through the comfort & care of doctors, nurses, paramedics, family, friends and even strangers who offered a kind word or a smile. Challenges remain, but there is hope. Update: Lisa & Kurt need your prayers as Lisa will be undergoing surgery again in December.

----Love to you all, Lisa Dicks

We cannot find enough words of thanks in response to your gift in the amount of \$216.67 to LOMC. The pandemic is still affecting our ability to provide a fuller outdoor ministry experience.

----Blessing & peace from LOMC staff and board, Robert Gieraltowski, Exec. Dir.

CALVARY'S PRAYER LIST

The following individuals need to be uplifted in prayer:

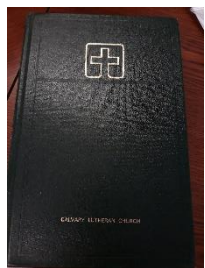
Connie Jensen recovering from surgery. Lisa & Kurt Dicks, LaVerne Knipe, Dave Menke battling cancer, Jeremiah Griebel, Cindy Pham, Allen & Joyce Faust, Kenalene Forbeck, Audrey Laabs, Pete Lingris & family, Bev & Ken Oller, Karen Moore, Gerda Schmeltzer, Dorothy Hultgren, Randy Kirkwood

JANUARY Newsletter
Deadline
MONDAY,
DECEMBER 13

Newsletter
DEADLINE

Because of Christmas, **all articles** for the December newsletter must be emailed to the church office or placed in my box by **Monday, December 13th**.

The December Newsletter will be mailed or placed in your mailboxes on Thursday, December 16.



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.



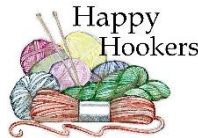
Congratulations to Charlene & Bob Lundstrom on the birth of another grandchild. Carl & Brandi Lundstrom had a baby boy, Lars Robert on Saturday, October 9th.

DECEMBER SERVICE PROJECT

Mitten Tree



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.



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 coffee time.

Love & Hugs, Marilyn Mudd

KNIT A BIT

Knit-A-Bit group took 50 Hat/gloves/scarf sets to Youth Hope for their Thanksgiving baskets and 30 sets to World Relief for the refugees. Thank you to all who help make these items to share with the community. They were appreciated by both groups.



Also, we will not be meeting until after January. If you have finished items, please bring them to church. We are still distributing items.



Volunteers Needed

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.

- For December 5 – L & CA - Val Daniel
- December 12 – L & CA – Renee Ketelsen
- December 19 - OPEN**
- December 24 – OPEN – Christmas Eve**
- December 26 – OPEN – Lessons & Carols**

JANUARY remains OPEN

- January 2
- January 9
- January 16
- 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.

DECEMBER COUNTER SCHEDULE

- December 5 – Debbie Faith & Teri Griebel
- December 12 – Gary Gross & Steve Faith
- 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



Serving CAFÉ on VINE

Please mark your 2022 calendars for the following dates:

February 19, 2022, June 18, 2022 and September 17, 2022.

As the dates get closer, please watch Newsletters and Bulletins for more information. Volunteers needed to prepare food on the Friday before and to help with serving on Saturday's.

FROM THE PARISH NURSE

If you haven't already, it's time to get your booster (3rd vaccine). It is now available for Moderna, J&J and Pfizer. You can make an appointment at your physician, HyVee, Walgreens or Osco. Hyvee, Walgreen and the Rock Island County Health Department (RICHD) also accept walk ins. The RICHD gives J&J and Moderna every Tuesday 9-12 and 1-4. RICHD gives Pfzier every Friday 9-12 and 1-4.

