

# *Calvary Courier*

## *December 2022*

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor,

Earlier in my career, when I was younger and had more energy, I was among the many pastors who railed against Christmas celebrations/activities during Advent. I bemoaned Santa Claus and Christmas decorations making an appearance in the stores almost before the Halloween decorations were down. I constantly changed stations on the car radio when Christmas music played during the early days of December. Advent, I staunchly asserted, is not Christmas, and Advent needs to be observed. You can't just skip Advent.

Now that I'm older, hopefully wiser, and certainly more tired, I have almost given up the fight. I still resist the temptation to put up Christmas lights before Thanksgiving (although I am regretting not doing it when it was 75<sup>0</sup> outside last week). And it will still be a week or so before I drag the Christmas tree out of the attic.

However, I have to admit that I've been watching Hallmark Christmas movies since October, I've submitted my Christmas list to Santa (i.e. Amazon), and find myself humming Christmas carols. So, even though the first Sunday in Advent is still a few days away, I will throw up my arms and somewhat reluctantly say, "Let Christmas begin."

Yet (and this is where the "wiser" may come into play) I don't think this is a complete surrender to the commercialistic culture. Perhaps Christianity and ecclesiology (things related to the church, like the seasons of the church year) play a role in the blurring of the line between Advent (the time of waiting for the arrival of the messiah) and Christmas (the celebration of the birth of our savior and the recognition that God is with us).

You see, the Christian church always lives in a **paradox** (a seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement or proposition that when investigated or explained may prove to be well founded or true). As Christians we believe we live in a time when the reign of Christ has begun while at the same time we await the Kingdom of God. In short, we live in a time of "already but not yet."

If you are struggling to make sense of that statement, that's ok. I don't think it is meant to make sense. It is a part of the mystery of God.

In the season of Advent we await the birth of the Christ child even though Jesus was obviously born a long time ago. We also await the coming kingdom of God even though that kingdom began in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In Christian theology we talk about God's kingdom being here already and not yet. It is a paradox.

Hence, if the church can blur the line between "already and not yet," then maybe it's ok for us to blur the line between Advent and Christmas. We know that God is with us already through the child of Bethlehem and that is worth celebrating every day. But it is also important for us to pause in the midst of that Christmas joy and remember that God is not yet finished with us.

So, let's not forget to observe Advent, too. Let's remember that God, who is here now, is also still to come to make all things complete.

In Christ,

*Pastor Knowles*



**Happy Birthday to:**

- 5 – Andrew Levesque, Mary Green
- 9 – Dawn Levesque
- 10 – Charlene Lundstrom
- 13 – Karen Thorsvold
- 23 – Ian Mudd

- 25 – Sidney Mudd
- 30 – Joan Winter

**Happy Anniversary to:**

- 7 – Megan & Michael Necessary (2009)

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**



Special Christmas Services

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.

On **Christmas Day** at 10:30 a.m. join us for worship as we continue to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



**CHURCH OFFICE will be OPEN the week of December 26<sup>th</sup>.**

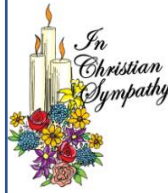
Teri will be in the office the week after Christmas as the Annual Report information is due – **December 27.**

Pastor Knowles will be on vacation from December 26 through January 2.

**DEADLINE FOR POINSETTIA ORDERS IS DECEMBER 7<sup>TH</sup>**



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



**We offer our sympathies and prayers** Jackie Dooley on the passing of her brother Jon Jorgensen. May you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ.



You can bring Christmas cards for regular attending members and put them in their mailbox. Please mail cards to shut-ins and those

who go out of town for the winter or do not attend regularly, so they don’t sit in their mailboxes all year. Please put your return address on the envelope.

**Christmas Cards to Shut-ins**

*If you are sending Christmas Cards, please keep our shut-ins in mind:*

Bev Boyle – Apt. B210  
Friendship Manor  
1209 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue  
Rock Island, IL 61201

Kurt & Lisa Dicks  
2347 32<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Moline, IL61265

Bob & Beth Fuller  
1515 10<sup>th</sup> St.  
Silvis, IL 61282

Gisele Richardson  
Paulson Manor - #141  
2424 41<sup>st</sup> St  
Moline, IL 61265

Gerda Scheltzer - # 203  
The Fountains Living  
3752 Thunder Ridge Rd  
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Gene & Betsy Untiedt  
2205 Kimberly Rd-  
Apt. 343  
Bettendorf, IA 52722

Joan Winter – c/o Matt Winter  
614 Pine Hollow Dr.  
Anderson, SC 29621

**NOTE – DATE CHANGE**

**Annual Meeting** has been moved to Sunday, **JANUARY 22**



**ANNUAL REPORT DEADLINE**  
**Tuesday, DECEMBER 27**

This year the Annual Report deadline is December 27<sup>th</sup>. Please have all reports. into the office or emailed to the church office.

The reports should be out by Sunday, January 15 or before.



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



Thank you for all your prayers for my brother Jon Jorgensen.

---Jacki Dooley



Thank you to everyone who donated to fill our Shoeboxes. We were able to fill 12 shoeboxes. Thank you also to Debbie Faith for delivering ours.

---Sue Knipe and WELCA



Thank you to all Calvary members for turning in all your pull tabs. Your tabs are taken to the Shriners or to Iowa City McDonald House. Lots of children and parent's lives are being touched by this simple project. Thank you from the Mudd family.

Keep pulling those tabs and bring them to Calvary.

---Love & Hugs, Marilyn



Calvary – First of all, thank you for your generosity this year with your donations of shoes and other aid for the kids in Romania. These shoes, along with shoes collected by 50+ other churches, arrived in Romania in mid-October. I was very fortunate to go on a mission trip to Romania with Another Child Foundation to help distribute these shoes to 380 or so kids in 6 locations. Each kid would try on a pair (or more) of shoes and eventually say Bune (good!) with a thumbs-up to their new pair of shoes.

Another focus of this trip was to present a Bible story; this year, our team chose Daniel and the Lion's Den. We also helped the kids with outdoor games, and indoor arts and crafts.

I felt that I was able to positively interact with the kids at each location, and also with the teachers and staff at several locations. It was very rewarding to bring smiles to these kids and to work alongside several others on this trip who also have a passion for helping the kids in Romania. It was a wonderful trip and I hope to return someday. Thank you so much for your generosity! The kids very much appreciate their new shoes this year!

--- Greg Johnson



Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministries of Churches United. Your \$310.00 given will be used toward the following ministries of Churches United; Winnie's Transitional Housing, our 22 food pantries and food on the tables at our 1 free hot meal site.

---Blessing, Rev. Dr. Melvin Grimes, Exec. Dir.  
Betsy Vanausdeln, Assoc. Dir.



Thank you for your continued support of the mission and ministries of Churches United. We have received your \$153.00 donation for Moline Care Link. This enables us to keep helping those in need for rent and utility assistance for this area. Thank you for your continued commitment to enrich the lives of those among us who are most in need.

---Blessing, Rev. Dr. Melvin Grimes, Exec. Dir.  
Betsy Vanausdeln, Assoc. Dir.



## DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS - NOVEMBER 27

We will Deck the Halls, the Sanctuary and the Upper Room after church on November 27.

### JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Tuesday, December 13

**JANUARY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE** is **December 13<sup>th</sup>** for distribution on December 21. Please have your articles to me as soon as you can, as this will be a short month. You may email or put your articles in my box. **Thanks, Teri**



**Service Committee** will be collecting mittens and gloves for local schools. 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.

### LAST-MINUTE GIFT

Looking for a last-minute Christmas Gift? WELCA still has Cookbooks for sale. Only \$2. Call Sue Knipe (309) 738-0415.



## UP COMING CHRISTMAS EVENTS

### WELCA Christmas Luncheon Tuesday, December 6 at 11:30 am



All women are invited to attend our WELCA Christmas luncheon at 11:30 am on Tuesday, December 6 at Montana Jacks in Moline. Reservations are not required. If you do decide to go at the last minute, please call Sue Knipe at (309) 738-0415.

### CAROLING MEETING DECEMBER 11



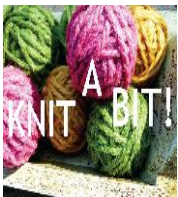
On December 11, we will meet before church and decide what day that week we will go caroling, as we can look at the weather for that week.

### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON DECEMBER 18 at NOON



Plans are in the works to have a Christmas Luncheon on December 18 at noon in Erlander Hall. Please watch the announcement page for more information as it becomes available.

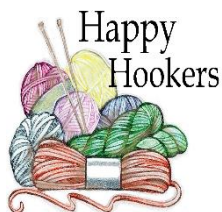
### KNIT - A - BIT No December Meetings



Knit a bit will not be meeting the month of December. If you have items finished, please bring them to church.

### HAPPY HOOKERS NO DECEMBER MEETING

Happy Hookers will not meet in December. Stay home where it is warm and enjoy your Christmas cookies. See you in January.



### USHER and COUNTER LISTS

The Usher and Counter lists for 2023 will be in your boxes by Sunday, December 11.

Also, if you would like to volunteer as Back Door greeter, Lector, Communion Assistant, Usher, Counter or as a Sub, please let me know. Thanks to everyone who has volunteered this past year. Teri

## MEMBERS OF CALVARY



We have council members with 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 (309) 762-5423

### FROM THE PARISH NURSE



Matter of balance tip: to prevent falling when its icy remember to walk like a penguin: feet slightly turned out, knees a little bent and arms straight pointing out from the body (make a triangle with your head the point of the triangle and your arms the other 2 points). Then walk like a penguin, small shuffle steps. Check the soles of your boots and shoes to be sure the tread isn't worn smooth.

Remember to go to the emergency room if you have chest pain, change in level of consciousness, excessive bleeding from a wound, mouth or rectum or excruciating constant pain. It's best to see your health care provider or go to one of the walk in clinics for other problems. You will wait hours in the emergency room if it's not a life-threatening problem. If you have an orthopedic emergency ORA has walk in hours 8-5pm Mon-Fri, no referral or appointment needed, you only need to call 911 or drive to the hospital if you have an open fracture.



## Merry Christmas from Calvary Staff



Please read over carefully the two-month schedules. Please note there are now two communion assistants listed for each Sunday, beginning with December.

If you are unable to full-fill your commitment, please find a replacement and let Teri know in the office.

**ALTAR GUILD for DECEMBER**

Sandy Ohrn and Pam Ohrn

**LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. for DECEMBER**

- Dec. 4 – Paul Levesque (L & CA); Bruce Daniel (CA)
- Dec. 11 – Debbie Faith (L & CA); Val Daniel (CA)
- Dec. 18 – Joe Geerts (L & CA); Gary Gross (CA)
- Dec. 24 – Sandy Ohrn (L & CA); Bruce Daniel (CA)
- Dec. 25 – Barb Geerts (L) &  
Joe Geerts & Sandy Ohrn (CA)

**BACK DOOR GREETERS for DECEMBER**

- Dec. 4 - Joe Geerts
- Dec. 11 – Sandy Ohrn
- Dec. 18 – Linda Chase
- Dec. 24 – Gary Gross
- Dec. 25 – Barb Geerts

**COUNTERS for DECEMBER**

- Dec. 4 – Charlene Lundstrom & Vicki McAlister
- Dec. 11 – Barb Geerts & Teri Griebel
- Dec. 18 – Debbie Faith & Paul Levesque
- Dec. 25 – Gary Gross & Terry Langston

**USHERS/GREETERS for DECEMBER**

- Dec. 4 – Dave Peterson & Terry Langston
- Dec. 11 – Vicki McAlister & Ruth Laabs
- Dec. 18 – Bruce & Val Daniel
- Dec. 24 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase
- Dec. 25 – Joe Geerts & Gary Gross

**ALTAR GUILD FOR JANUARY**

Renee Ketelsen and Candice Tennison

**LECTORS & COMMUNION ASST. FOR JANUARY**

- Jan.. 4 – Gary Gross (CA) ?
- Jan. 11 – Renee Ketelsen (L & CA);  
Connie Langston (CA)
- Jan. 18 – Sandy Ohrn (L & CA); Paul Levesque (CA)
- Jan. 24 – Ruth Laabs (L & CA); Deb Faith (CA)
- Jan. 25 – Val Daniel (L & CA); Terry Langston (CA)

**BACK DOOR GREETERS FOR JANUARY**

- Jan. 1 – Gary Gross
- Jan. 8 – Pam Gross
- Jan. 15 – Renee Ketelsen
- Jan. 22 – Deb Faith
- Jan. 29 – Linda Chase

**COUNTERS FOR JANUARY**


- Jan. 1 – Greg Johnson & Connie Langston
- Jan. 8 – Pam Gross & Linda Chase
- Jan. 15 – Charlene Lundstrom & Vicki McAlister
- Jan. 22 – Paul Levesque & Barb Geerts
- Jan. 29 – Debbie Faith & Teri Griebel

**USHERS/GREETERS FOR JANUARY**

- Jan. 1 – Kirk Ketelsen
- Jan. 8 – David Peterson & Terry Langston
- Jan. 15 – Vicki McAlister & Ruth Laabs
- Jan. 22 – Bruce & Val Daniel
- Jan. 29 – Greg Johnson & Linda Chase

# December 2022

November '22							January '23						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30 NO KNIT-A-BIT	1 9:00 am Flexible Flexors	2	3
4 2nd Sunday in Advent 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship	5 9:00 am Flexible Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	6	7 Poinsettia Order Deadline NO KNIT-A-BIT	8 9:00 am Flexible Flexors	9	10
11 3rd Sunday in Advent 9:15 am Coffee Hour CAROLING MEETING 10:30 am Worship	12 9:00 am Flexible Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	13 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 7:00 pm Church Council	14 NO KNIT-A-BIT	15 9:00 am Flexible Flexors 7:00 pm Quad City Coin Club - Erlander Hall	16	17
18 4th Sunday in Advent 9:15 am Coffee Hour 10:30 am Worship NOON - WELCA LUNCHEON	19 9:00 am Flexible Flexors 10:00 am Bible Study	20	21 NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTED NO KNIT-A-BIT	22 9:00 am Flexible Flexors	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 4:00 pm Christmas Eve Service 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service - St. James, Rock Island
<b>OFFICE OPEN THIS WEEK - PASTOR ON VACATION DEC. 26 THROUGH JAN. 2, 2023</b>						
25 10:30 am Worship 	26 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	27 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE <b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	28 <b>OFFICE OPEN</b> NO HAPPY HOOKERS NO KNIT-A-BIT	29 <b>OFFICE OPEN</b>	30	31

**Notes:** Poinsettia Orders are due in the office by December 7 th.

December 18 - WELCA LUNCHEON - Watch the Announcements for more information

December 24 - 4:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service at Calvary, Moline

December 24 - 7:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service at St. James, Rock Island

December 25 - 10:30 am - Christmas Day Service at Calvary, Moline

**\*\* Please Note - Office will be open on December 27 through December 29. Pastor may be reached on his cell. \*\***

