

Calvary Courier

February 2021

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor,

The concluding prayer for the Ash Wednesday service in the ELW hymnal reads:

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The prayer picks up the typical themes of Lent – almsgiving, fasting, and prayer.

- In Lent we are encouraged to pray – to keep the lines of communication with God open.
- In Lent we are urged to care for our brothers and sisters in need, sharing the gifts of God’s abundance given to us.
- In Lent we are called on to repent, to turn from self-centeredness to God-centeredness. We are called on to put God at the center of our lives.

There is one other theme, however, that this prayer invokes that I, at least, don’t usually associate with Lent. And that is the theme of baptism. The prayer asks God to “renew us in the gift of baptism...”

So what is this “gift” of baptism?

The initial, and obvious, answer is that through baptism we believe that God grants the gift of the Holy Spirit and with it the promise of eternal life. I

suspect that if I were to take a survey of members asking what the gift of baptism is about, the predominant response would involve some form of a promise of life in heaven. And that is consistent with the way Luther talks about the promises of baptism in small catechism – the gifts of forgiveness, new life, and salvation.

But Luther also talks about baptism not only in terms of resurrection, but also as death. We are, Luther would say, drowned in the waters of baptism. In baptism the old Adam (or Eve) dies. Our sinful selves are drowned in the waters of baptism and a new being is raised from the waters.

To ask God, then, to renew us in the gift of baptism is to pray, in a sense, for our death – the drowning of our sinful, self-centered lives. It is to ask for God to put to death all that is within us that gets in the way of seeking to live according to God’s will (mercy, love, forgiveness, and justice) rather than our own.

It appears unlikely that we will be able to gather together for worship on Ash Wednesday and receive the imposition of ashes. So, instead of ashes, perhaps this year you could mark the sign of the cross on your forehead in water as a remembrance of your baptism and pray that God will indeed put to death the old, sinful self in you and give you the Spirit to live in accordance with God’s will.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles

OPEN HOUSE COMMUNION

Pastor will hold an **Open House** Communion at St. James on **February 8** from 2:00 – 3:00 pm and at Calvary from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. Then again on **February 22** at Calvary from 2:00 – 3:00 pm and St. James from 6:30 – 7:30 pm.

FEBRUARY

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- 2 – Rick Ohrn
- 6 – Connie Jensen
- 7 – Renee Ketelsen
- 8 – Megan Necessary
- 9 – Beth Fuller
- 10 – Kendall Knowles
- 15 – Elaine Foster
- 17 – Dorothy Harmening
- 20 – Linda Johansen
- 21 – Lisa Dicks, Logan Gross, Sue Knipe

CALVARY'S PRAYER LIST

The following individuals need to be uplifted in prayer:

Dave Menke battling cancer. Roger Thorsvold, Arla Olson, Cindy Pham, Kevin Freeze, Bret & Megan Daniels and family, Jane, Margo's friend, Allen & Joyce Faust, Amy Ritchie, Kenalene Forbeck, Kelly Strand, Bernie and Audrey Laabs, Amy, Pete Lingris & family, Bev & Ken Oller, Karen Moore, Gerda Schmeltzer, Dorothy Hultgren, Randy Kirkwood.

Don't Forget!



The ANNUAL MEETING will be held on **January 24, 2021** beginning at 11:30 pm. You should have received a letter regarding Zoom. On page 3, I have reprinted the letter.

It would be helpful to us if you would let us know if you plan to attend and how (ZOOM computer, ZOOM phone, or in person) so we can be as prepared as possible.

COLLECTING WINTER COATS

We are collecting winter coats to give to the homeless during the month of February. Place your coats in a bag and drop them off at church.



COAT COLLECTION

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The **February** Newsletter will be out on **Wednesday, February 17**. All articles for the newsletter should be emailed/mailed to the church office no later **Tuesday, February 16**.



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

- Thank you very much, you wonderful Happy Hookers. Gene has used his lap robe from day one and the scarf is so soft.

---- Thank you again, Gene & Betsy Untiedt

- Thank you to everyone who sent cards and phoned to help me Celebrate my 90th birthday. I just wish we could have had a special treat with our coffee after church.

----Stay well. Hugs – Joan Winter

- To Pam Gross and Knit-a-Bit, We want to thank you all for the beautiful knitted winter wear for the foster kids. Receiving something so personal will show the kids how much they are cared about.

---- Sincerely, the LSSI Moline workers

- Thanks so much for your donation to Youth Hope Food Pantry. We sincerely appreciate he contribution.

----God Bless, Youth Hope Staff



WELCA - All Calvary women are invited.



Deborah Circle – Feb. 2 at 11:30 am in Erlander Hall for lunch. Bring your own lunch and drink. Wear a mask. One person to a table. We will put together Valentine Gift Bags, have devotions and prayer requests



Serving at Cafe on Vine February 13

Volunteers needed to prepare food Friday Feb. 12 at church at 2:00

Need 32 dozen cookies - bring to church and we will package them in baggies (2 per bag). Prepare & wrap sandwiches, bag vegetables, and put salad into serving cups.

Take food on Saturday and serve from the takeout window.

If you can help in any way please call Pam Gross 309-738-2385.

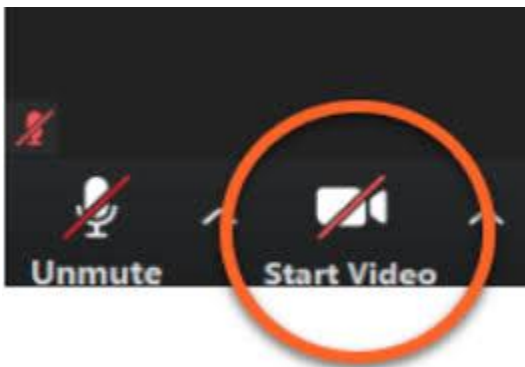
We will be serving again on May 1 and October 9.

Calvary's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 24, 2021 beginning at 11:30 am. All voting members of Calvary are invited and encouraged to attend. There will be no parking lot service that morning.

Because of the Covid-19 restrictions currently in place the format of the meeting needs to be adjusted for this year. If possible, the council asks that you participate in this meeting virtually.

Below is information on how you can connect to the meeting via ZOOM. It is possible to use ZOOM with an electronic device (smart phone, computer, tablet) through the internet or using a telephone.

- For those planning to attend via an electronic device, Pastor Knowles will send an invitation by email during the week before the meeting. If you are currently receiving email announcements about worship services, you should receive the email invitation automatically. If you are not receiving those announcements, please contact the office and we will add your email address to the list. The email will include a link that will take you into the meeting. Be aware that there are two icons you need to use to participate. One is the microphone, the other is camera. This picture shows both icons with the microphone muted and the video turned off.



In order for you to be heard at the meeting you must unmute (click on the microphone so that the red line is removed). In order for you to be seen by others in the meeting, you must start the video (click on the camera icon so that the red line is removed). If you do not have a camera with your device or do not want to be seen, leave the video icon with the red line.

- If you plan to attend the meeting through Zoom over the telephone you need to call (312) 626-6799 at the time of the meeting. You will be asked to enter the following information.
 - Meeting ID: 870 9335 8199 followed by #.
 - They will ask for member id. You won't have one, so just enter #.
 - Passcode: 681586 followed by #.

You will be admitted to a waiting room where the meeting host will let you join the meeting. You will be able to hear the meeting and speak, but you will not be seen. If you have something to say, please speak up and identify yourself. Then wait for the meeting leader to invite you to speak.

- If you do not receive email but want to join via a computer, log in to ZOOM at the following address and use the same Meeting ID and Passcode from above.
- The pastor open the ZOOM program about 15 minutes before the scheduled start of the Annual Meeting so people can log in and make sure everything is working.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87093358199?pwd=K29vNINISjE5UjI0YUNIMUZZTE1FUT09>

If you are not familiar with ZOOM and would like to try it ahead of the meeting, contact Pastor Knowles and a trial meeting can be arranged.

We will also allow some people to attend the meeting in person. To provide as safe an area to meet we will use the sanctuary and keep socially distanced. Masks will be required for anyone who attends in person. Current guidelines limit us to 25 people.

It would be helpful to us if you would let us know if you plan to attend and how (ZOOM computer, ZOOM phone, or in person) so we can be as prepared as possible.

Because of the unusual circumstances involved this year, the business of the meeting will be abbreviated and only involve essential actions – such as passing a budget and elections. Other reports will be available and can be discussed, but we hope to keep the meeting brief.

Annual reports are now available. They can be picked up at church (at a Sunday parking lot service or call the office to make sure someone is there) or they can be emailed to you (pdf format) or they can be mailed. We are hoping to mail as few as possible to save the postage expense, so please use one of the other options if possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Knowles (pastor@calvarymoline.org or 309-762-5423) or Greg Johnson (gregjohnson575@gmail.com or 309-796-0858).

Thank you for your understanding as we try to conduct the congregation’s business as safely as possible during this pandemic.

In Christ,
Calvary’s Council

+++++

CALVARY’S HUMOR

- Q. My child doesn’t want to eat meat. What can I replace it with? A. – A dog. Dogs love meat.
- If you hate speeding tickets, raise your right foot.
- A friend is a chocolate chip in your cookie of life.
- It was not the apple on the tree that caused the problem, it was the pair on the ground.
- Q - What kind of shoes did the burglar wear? A – Sneakers.
- Brain cells come and brain cells go, but fat cells stay with you forever.
- You have to stay in shape. My grandmother started walking five miles a day hen she was 60. She’s 97 today and we have no idea where she is.
- Life is full of wonder – you wonder where you parked the car – you wonder where your glasses are.
- Frustration is trying to find your glasses without your glasses.
- The good news: There is golf in heaven. The bad news: You’re scheduled to play next week.
- You know you’re old when your idea of weight lifting is getting out of the chair.
- Things I miss most? Giving and receiving hugs. But most of all not seeing smiles. Especially knowing no one see the one you are sending. But we must still walk tall and carry a Big smile.

