

Calvary Courier

August 2020

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor

John [the Baptist] said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. (Luke 3:7-8)

I’m certain that John’s message in the passage above from Luke 3 was not universally well received. Those who had established themselves as the religious authorities in Jerusalem did not like to have itinerant preachers like John coming and upsetting the *status quo*. Those religious leaders had become quite comfortable in their situations, and comfortable with their relationship with God because they were, in fact, children of Abraham. But John’s message to them was clear. God doesn’t need the established standards and practices to do what needs to be done. If God wants children of Abraham, he can raise them up from stones.

Perhaps we should take heart from that. We are now living in a time when all the established standards and practices have been upended. For nearly five months now the way we have always done things is not currently viable. In particular we have not been able to gather for worship in our sanctuary since mid-March. Worship has been limited to the internet, for those who have access to it, or television. It just has not felt right. And even now that we have gathered to worship in the parking lot, it still didn’t seem real as I was preaching to headlights and bumpers. We long to be back together in our building, in our pew, in our chair in the Upper Room. Then it will feel like worship and Sunday morning again.

However, John the Baptist might very well proclaim to us that God doesn’t need sanctuaries and pews and Upper Rooms. If that is what was needed, God could raise them from stones. But those are not the things that make up “the church.” What makes the church “church” are the

people gathered in the name of Christ. And that can happen anywhere – watching a video on Facebook, or a worship service on TV, or over the phone with fellow Christians. That is where the church is – in the people of God.

Maybe that is a positive we can take from this time of pandemic; a reminder that the church exists apart from the building on the Avenue of the Cities. It exists in the people of God, however we may be gathering this day. God can raise up the church through Facebook videos, Zoom meetings, phone calls and televised worship services.

I attended a parking lot service of ordination a few weeks ago in Lockport. The president of the congregation hosting the service was wearing a t-shirt that said, “The Church Has Left the Building.” Amen to that. We have been forced from our building for the sake of protecting each other from a virus, but that does not mean the church has ceased to exist. We are still here and we are still the church.

In Christ,
Pastor Knowles

AUGUST

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

2 – Bryce Chase
8 – Addi Miller
10 – Valorie Daniel
11 – Marilyn Mudd
12 – Haley Mudd
15 – Sheila Doering
20 – Lee Ann Carlson
22 – Gerda Schmeltzer
24 – Debra McClanahan
25 – Tyler De'Shawn Bowser-Smith
29 – Jan Jackson
30 – Tyler Lee Miller
31 – Linda Miner

Happy Anniversary to:

9 – Connie & Terry Langston (1997)
14 – LaVerne & Sue Knipe (1976)
16 – Allen & Judy Noftsker (1998)
20 – Greg & Karla Kirkwood- Johnson (1977)
27 – Rev. Don & Mary Knowles (1983)
29 – Rick & Pam Ohrn (1981)

CALVARY'S PRAYER LIST

The following individuals need to be uplifted in prayer:

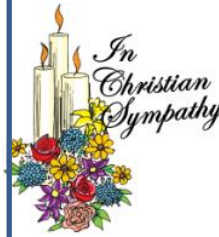


Dave Menke and Vinh Pham battling cancer. Cindy Pham, Kelly Strand, Jack Wheeler, Bernie and Audrey Laabs, Amy, Pete Lingris & family, Kay Chase, Bev & Ken Oller, Karen Moore, Gerda Schmeltzer, Dorothy Hultgren, Marynell Kirkwood, Randy Kirkwood, Elaine Newberg.

Dear Lord, the above names need your healing grace bestowed upon them, their caregivers and families. Each day we go about in our own world and seldom think about what others are going through. Help us to become better stewards of our time and to remember those in need. Thank you for giving us the opportunity to worship on Sunday as a family in Christ. May Your grace always dwell within us. Amen

NEWSLETTER
DEADLINE

All articles for the September newsletter should be emailed/mailed to the church office no later August 25. The newsletter will go out on Wednesday, August 26.



We offer our sympathies and prayers to the, family and friends Roy Woitte. Roy passed away on July 15th. Services were held on July 21 at Greenview Memorial Gardens, East Moline. May you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ

Food Pantry / Romania Shoes Thank-You –

Thanks to all who dropped off food items and shoes in July. We estimated that the food items would have filled a shopping cart. The food was taken to the Christian Friendliness Food Pantry in Moline. The shoes will start their trip to Romania in October.

Starting in August, food donations and shoes can be brought to Calvary on Sunday mornings. Your donations can be given to an usher or helper in the parking lot as we get ready for the parking lot worship on Sundays.

If you want to have your food items (or shoes) picked up from your home, please contact Greg Johnson at 796-0858 or the church office at 762-5423 (and leave a message).

----- Thank you, and God Bless. Calvary Council



Shoes for Kids in Romania

The shoe collection at Calvary and other churches is extended to October 1st.

We will be collecting:

- 1) new shoes for kids aged 3 to 14 years old, and
- 2) money to go towards shipping costs.

Shoes may be dropped off at Calvary during the Sunday morning worship times, or call Greg Johnson at 796-0858 to arrange a pick-up. On behalf of the kids in Romania, thank you. Greg Johnson

A BELATED Birthday Shout Out to Chris Rogerwall who celebrated her 90th Birthday on June 11th. Chris has done so much wonderful crocheting for the Happy Hookers. Sorry your birthday was missed.

Volunteers Needed

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to those that have painted this summer. This hearty group of volunteers have painted The Upper Room, upstairs Bathrooms and all Hallways – by Upper Room, church office and the wood paneling by the back steps. This was a big job but it looks nice.

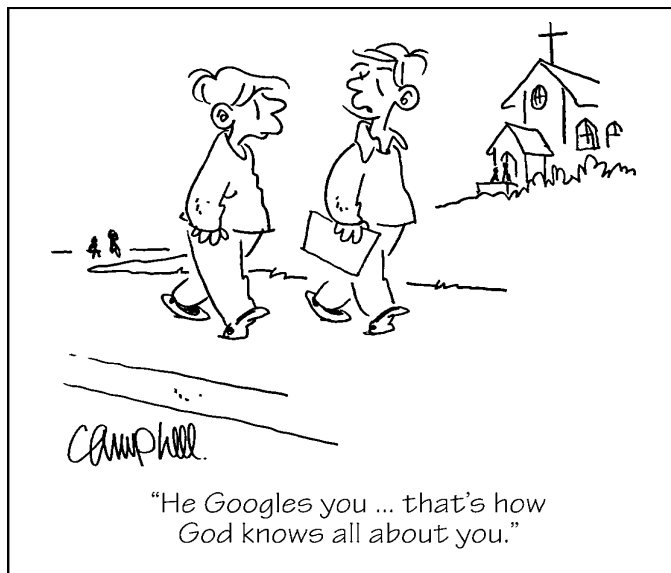
If some of you have grown tired of sitting in your homes and have cleaned just everything that you can think of; the church could use some cleaning as well. At the present time, we do not have a custodian or cleaning service and just as in your home, the church is a little dusty. It doesn't take much to run the sweeper or clean the window ledges in the Sanctuary.

If you have questions about any of the projects listed or think of other projects please call Pam or Gary Gross.

Property committee is still looking for volunteers to do the following projects around the church.

1. Trimming/shaping/cutting the 2 tall evergreens that block the crosses on the north side of church.
2. Prime and paint the 3 metal crosses on the north side of the church.
3. Help with the landscape on the west and north side of church.
4. Tack down the separated sub-floor in the center aisle of sanctuary. We need a pneumatic nail/tack gun for this to tack down through the carpet.
5. Wash windows in upper room.

Hope to get these all done this summer with your help.



Calvary Crusaders RELAY FOR LIFE NEWS.....

Due to Covid-19 restrictions and the well-being of all who would be involved, the Quad-Cities Relay will not take place this year. In its place will be a "Luminaria Night" on Saturday, September 12th at the Bettendorf High School. This will be a "drive-thru" event at the school's parking lot. In case of rain or the school not being open, other arrangements will be made for the display. The relay website will also have the names of honorees available for viewing.

The week of August 17-21 is "Luminaria Week." You can support our Calvary Crusaders team by purchasing a luminaria bag to honor someone.

Just place a call to one of our team members visit our Calvary Crusaders web page at www.relayforlife.org/quadcities. Cost is \$10.00. For more information, call Marilyn Gross, 764-0983.

FYI - we may be able to sponsor a Culver's Night later this year, too!!!!

WE NEED MORE HUMOR

- There's not a family tree in the world without a few nuts in it.
- It's true your mirror never lies, but at least it's not laughing.
- Inside every old person is a young person wondering what the heck happened.
- You might be aging if someone says to you, "I'll bet you don't remember me"! and they are right.
- Why are there handicap parking places in front of a skating rink?
- The older you get it's funny how your knees buckle but not your belt.
- It's important to leave a twinkle in your wrinkles!
- At my age Happy Hour is a nap
- If your eyes hurt after drinking coffee you must remember to take the spoon out of the cup.

On Sunday July 19th, Calvary held their FIRST Parking lot church service. There were a few sprinkles in the beginning, but the rain clouds moved on for a nice morning. Here are a few pictures that were taken by Paul Levesque. As you can see, we had quite a few cars in the parking lot. Thanks Paul for sharing your photos.

