

The Calvary Lutheran Messenger

March 2019

A Publication of Calvary Lutheran Church, Moline, Illinois

From the Pastor:

I remember as a child hearing my friends talk about what they were going to “give up” for Lent. Sometimes they spoke of giving up something significant, like soda or chocolate. Others would smirk a little bit and say that they were giving up liver and onions for Lent (which they didn’t like and never ate anyway). It was always my impression that “giving up” something for Lent was meant to be some kind of sacrifice.

One year, somewhere in the later years of high school, I jumped on the bandwagon. I decided I would give up coffee for Lent. Now you have to understand that even at the age of 17 or 18 this really was a sacrifice for me. I was already a caffeine addict, and giving up my two or three cups of daily coffee would not be easy. But I did succeed. Throughout the entire Lenten season I did not drink any coffee. Come Easter morning, as I chugged several cups of coffee, I felt so proud. I could not help but pat myself on the back and think, “My, what a devoted Christian I am.”

I have since come to understand that I probably accomplished just the opposite of the intention of the Lenten discipline of “fasting” or giving something up for Lent. At the end of those 40+ days, I believed I had done something that would impress God. I did it myself. It was, as Luther would have surely pointed out, an act of “works righteousness.”

The point, however, of giving something up for Lent is not to prove how good and devoted one might be, but rather to shed oneself of something that gets in the way of one’s relationship with God. I don’t think coffee was a getting in the way of my relationship with God. On the other hand, my pride (“See what I did God. I gave up coffee for 40 days. Aren’t you proud of me?”) was certainly a stumbling block to trusting in God’s grace alone for my forgiveness and salvation.

The disciplines of Lent; prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; are not intended to be tests for us, but to encourage us to set aside those things that hinder our relationship with God and do things that increase our faith. That, I believe, is what Lent is really all about. It is a time to refocus our lives on God; shedding the things that hinder our faith and doing the things that strengthen our relationship with God.

And so I encourage you in the midst of this Lenten season to find some way – at least one way - to grow in your relationship with God. Maybe it means giving something up – something that gets in the way. Or maybe it means doing something extra – like setting aside more time to read the Bible, or to pray, or come back to worship. Whether it is not doing something or doing something different I pray that this Lenten season will draw you closer to God.

In Christ,

Pastor Knowles

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS

On Saturday, March 9, Be sure and Change Your Clocks **AHEAD** one (1) **hour** before going to bed.



Evening Bible Study at ST. JAMES, Rock Island

Evening Bible Study continues on Tuesday evenings, except the 2nd Tuesday of each month, at 6:30 pm. We will be studying the book of Luke.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS and ANNIVERSARIES

Happy Birthday to:

- 1 – Gisele Richardson - 95
- 2 – Peter Doering
- 9 – Betty Clark
- 11 – Rebecca Richardson
- 13 – Linda Chase
- 15 – Margo Miller
- 17 – Ted Jackson
- 18 – Steve Faith, Dorothy Hultgren, Cindy Pham
- 25 – Pam Gross
- 27 – Laura Knipe
- 30 – Rosalie Mellgren
- 31 – JoAnn Sullivan



Happy Anniversary to:

- 6 – Jack & Marilyn Gross (1954)
 - Bob & Charlene Lundstrom (1976)
- 19 – Dianna & Terry Kitchen (1983)
 - Mike & Alisha Jones (2005)



Volunteers Needed to Serve Lenten Lunches for April 3 & 10



We are still looking for volunteers to prepare and serve lunch for April 3 and April 10. (The lunches do not have to be fancy). The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the hallway. If you need more information, Please see Charlene Lundstrom or Marilyn Gross.

Thank you to those who have already signed up to serve Lenten Lunches during March. They are:

- March 13 – Marilyn Gross, Jan Jackson
 - March 20 – Charlene Lundstrom, Marilyn Mudd & Candice Tennison
 - March 27 – Pam Gross, Chris Mellgren
- April 3 & 10 – OPEN**

CONGREGATIONAL PICTURE to Celebrate Calvary's 100th Anniversary

Palm Sunday, April 14th

On Palm Sunday, April 14th after worship, we will be having a Congregational Picture taken. This picture will be hung in Erlander Hall next to the ones already on display.

We are trying to get as many members as we possibly can to come out for this event. This event also corresponds to the pictorial directory



We offer our sympathies and prayers to Kay Chase and family. Kay's sister, Ruth Ann Welch passed away on January 27. May each of you find refuge and comfort in our Lord, Jesus Christ.

A NEW church directory in Honoring Our 100th Anniversary - April 11, 12 or 13

One hundred years of church memories and a photo album of our Calvary family—all under one cover, and free!

In celebration of our “Century of Caring” here at Calvary, the 100th Anniversary Committee has chosen to provide congregational members with a special keepsake in the form of a new church directory.

Original plans for our anniversary year had called for simply updating the last directory that was published in 2017, but when we learned that creating a new directory would enable us to add any number of pages at no extra cost, the committee decided to go forward with the publication of a commemorative “Anniversary Booklet.” This will include not only our members’ portraits, but also the fascinating story of Calvary’s past, as well as a collection of related historical photos.

You can help make this happen by making an appointment to have your professional portrait taken **April 11, 12 or 13th** at the church.

Those who sit for a photo will receive a free 8x10 family portrait and the Anniversary Booklet, also at no charge. Additional portrait purchases will, of course, be available from Lifetouch, the company creating the booklet.

If you are unable to sit for a portrait, or simply choose not to, you have the option to have the photo from the previous directory used in the new publication. However, the company will charge \$10 for each of the existing portraits used, so a donation to defray that cost is being requested from these individuals.

A free directory will be given to each family whose portrait is included in the book, regardless of whether they have made additional photo purchases.

The sign-up information for your “photo shoot” will be coming soon. We would hate to leave anyone out, so be sure to sign up, and get your smile on!



TRIVIA NIGHT WAS A ROUSING SUCCESS!

On behalf of the 100th Anniversary Committee, thank you to everyone who helped make Calvary's first-ever trivia night on February 1st such a rousing success! Thank you to everyone who helped organize and run the event, who donated items for the silent auction, who helped with beverage and refreshment sales, and who attended and played. A special thank you to Mister Trivia, the best trivia host in the Quad Cities (if not the known universe), who did a wonderful job as emcee.

About 90 people were there for trivia night – coming out when the temperatures skyrocketed into the 20s following days of subzero cold – and we raised \$1,226. The proceeds will be used as part of a “love gift” that Calvary is donating to a new ELCA church in Genoa, Illinois – a congregation that should celebrate its 100th anniversary the same year we celebrate our bicentennial.

Look for more information on how you can donate toward the new congregation in Genoa. Meanwhile, I hope everyone who was there can agree that Trivia Night was a lot of fun and built a spirit of fellowship. Let's do it again sometime (but maybe next time without math questions...).

Paul Levesque

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING!

We collected \$261.98 for Souper Bowl Churches United Food Pantry.



LUNCH BUNCH



There will be no lunch bunch gatherings in March or April. The Lenten lunches will be served instead beginning at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, March 13th.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

for **MARCH** is no later than **March 14** for distribution on March 28. Please have your articles to me on time. You may email or put your articles in my box.



During the month of March we received the following word of thanks....

♣ Thank you so much to the Christmas Carolers who brought us a very special Holiday. And also to the Happy Hookers for their special gifts. We are very grateful to all of our Calvary family.

---- Sincerely, Bob & Beth Fuller

♣ I would like to thank everyone for their cards, kindness, and prayers while I have been dealing with the loss of my son Shawn Kelly. I really appreciate all your support during this difficult time. Special thanks to Teri Griebel for a wonderful job singing at the funeral. You have all touched my heart deeply.

---- Thanks again, Candice Tennison

♣ Calvary Lutheran, Thank you for thinking of Youth Hope Food Pantry. The donation of canned soup (the variety) is much appreciated by all.

---- In Warmth, Youth Hope Food Pantry

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WELCA - All Calvary women are invited.



✳ Deborah Circle – March 5 at 9:00 am in the Upper Room. Hostesses will be Ann Donahue and Joan Winter

✳ HAPPY HOOKERS - will meet on March 27 at 9:30 am in Erlander Hall. Activities include quilting, crocheting, knitting and handicrafts. (bring a treat to share at “coffee time.”)

WELCA West Conference Assembly - Will be held at Calvary Lutheran Church on Saturday, April 6 beginning at 9:00 am with registration and a brunch at 9:30 am. We are hosting this meeting along with St. James ladies. A presentation on the ministry, “New Life for Women The Farm,” will be given by Rev. Jackie Green. An in-kind offering of items needed by the ministry will be received. A list of these items can be found on the bulletin board in the Upper Room. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Sue Knipe or Sharon Hough.

ALL DAUGHTER BANQUET

Your feed-back is desired on whether we should plan to have one. Please give your opinion to one of the members of WELCA Board (sue Knipe, Marilyn Gross, Connie Langston, Sharon Hough or Jan Jackson.)



Church Council Highlights

Church Council met on Wednesday, Feb. 13 due to adverse weather conditions on Tuesday. Per board approval, Terry Langston was appointed to the council.

An Installation service for council members will be on Sunday, March 3rd. The following members were elected to the board:

- President: Greg Johnson
- Vice-President: Renee Ketelsen
- Secretary: Paul Levesque
- Treasurer: Pam Gross

RELAY FOR LIFE "Calvary Crusaders"



The Calvary Crusaders relay team will host the 4th hour Sunday Coffee Hour on March 24th. There will be donuts plus other wonderful "goodies" furnished by the relay team.

The Quad-Cities Relay has commissioned an exclusive Isabel Bloom "star Light" sculpture that is now on sale. A descriptive flyer and sign-up sheet are posted on the bulletin board outside the Upper Room. If you would like to order one, please use the sign-up sheet and see a member of the relay team for payment. Make checks out to Relay for Life. They will only be available while supplies last.

CAFÉ - February 23 at 9:30 a.m.
Moline Public Library Café,
3210 41st Street, Moline, IL
Sponsored by St. James WELCA

Please join us for a cup of coffee, tea, and maybe a pastry, as we gather for Bible Study and discussion on a Podcast from the ELCA website. All women of St. James Lutheran and Calvary Lutheran Churches are invited.

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Calvary Lutheran received a total of \$1,155.00 from the Thrivent Choice Dollars program in 2018. If you have not allocated your "Choice Dollars" from last year, it is not too late to do so - March 31st in the deadline.

100th Anniversary Information:

For March 2019 – we will be collecting **100 jars (plastic)** of Peanut Butter

LENTEN SCHEDULE for MARCH



March 6 – ASH WEDNESDAY Service
(No Lenten Lunch)

12:00 at **Calvary**

6:30 pm at **St. James, Rock Island**

No Choir Practice – Sun. morning at 9:50 am

March 13 – 11:00 Lenten Lunch – Calvary
Noon Service

6:30 pm – Calvary

Choir practice will be after service.

March 20 – 11:00 Lenten Lunch – Calvary
Noon Service

5:30 pm **Soup Supper** – **St. James,**

6:30 pm – **St. James**

No Choir Practice – Sun. morning at 9:50 am

March 27 – 11:00 am Lenten Lunch – Calvary
Noon Service

6:30 pm – Calvary

Choir practice will be after service.

ANOTHER CHILD FOUNDATION



MISSION TRIPS



Another Child Foundation is excited to be able to offer three mission trips to Romania this year. The three trips are June 13/23, July 4/14 and October 16/26. Each trip is unique in its own way. The June trip will work with kids and mothers in our school. The July trip is taking 40 kids to a beautiful mountain camp. The third trip in October concentrates on the delivery of the humanitarian aid we collect during Project Respond. ACF currently has just a handful of spots open for the 2 summer trips. For more information go to anotherchild.org or talk to Greg Johnson.

SONS & DAUGHTERS OF THUNDER

A Documentary to be shown March 30
At Augustana Lutheran Church in Andover, IL

The Andover showing of the documentary, *Sons & Daughters of Thunder*, has been set by Kelly & Tammy Rundle, the director and producer from Fourth Wall Films. The documentary, which was **partially filmed at the Jenny Lind Chapel ELCA in Andover**, will be shown on Saturday, March 30, 2019 at 7:30 pm, at Augustana Lutheran Church in Andover. **This will be a benefit, with donations going to the Jenny Lind Chapel.** Light refreshments will be available from 6:30 – 7:15 pm in Luther Hall.

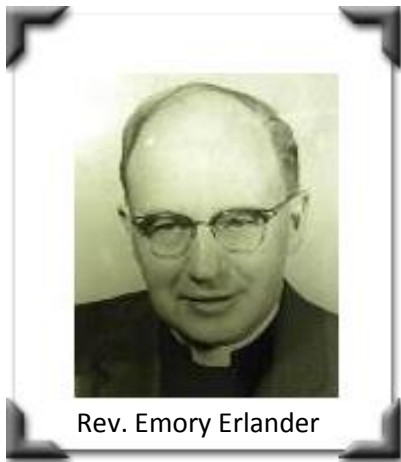
Calvary's Third Decade 1940-1949

The War and the wait.

That would define the third decade of Calvary's existence. World War II was raging, and the congregation sent more than 50 of its "boys" off to fight—a sacrificial number, considering the rostered membership stood at around 300 in those years. Three of those soldiers would not come home.

The "wait" refers to the seemingly endless delay in launching construction of the superstructure of the church. Lack of funding (and war shortages) meant that Calvary would remain a "basement church" many years longer than expected. But the parishioners persevered. The dream was delayed, but it would not die.

Leading the flock at this time was the Rev.



Rev. Emory Erlander

Emory Erlander, who wrote that he had called Calvary "home" five years prior to his 1940 return. There was no "easing in" to pastoral duties at his new calling: In the first few weeks, he would conduct five funerals, including those of two charter members who died on

the same day. Rev. Erlander's profound impact on the congregation would later be remembered in the naming of the downstairs fellowship room in his honor ("Erlander Hall").

The 1940's was a time of continued growth for Calvary, whose attendance increased from an average of 162 at the time of Rev. Erlander's arrival, to around 200 by the end of the decade. Calvary maintained its mid-week and Sunday evening services, even when most other area churches had discontinued theirs. But Rev. Erlander was saddened by the number of rostered members who did not attend worship regularly, especially those who seemed more interested in the social life of the congregation—that is, attending organizational events. "To stay away from church worship services is like staying away from the dinner table. If we don't eat, we know the body starves, and if we do not eat spiritual food the soul starves," he stated in his first annual report. The pastor was always one to

encourage a deeper commitment from his flock, noting that "church members are to be soldiers who owe their allegiance to the Risen Lord, and not Sunday morning pew warmers" (from the '48-'49 report). Another emphasis for Rev. Erlander was on evangelism efforts, especially for the church's 25th anniversary year in 1944. "We live amongst people, the majority of whom apparently have no time for the Lord," he wrote.

To reach others with the Good News, and better serve its community, Calvary completed an ambitious survey of 1,500 homes in the early 40's. It would also launch its first regular newsletter, the *Calvary Lutheran Messenger*, using stencils and a mimeograph machine. In addition, the members expanded their "tract ministry." Church volunteers would put thousands of inspirational leaflets in boxes placed around town, including Asplund's Barber Shop, the Old People's Home, Rosey's Ice Cream Shop, and, surprisingly, Buck's Tavern! The church also established a library and a book table to encourage religious reading. In his 1946 report, Rev. Erlander relayed this story of a person who had picked up a book through Calvary: "Recently a Greek girl working in a Moline factory bought Hallesby's devotional book, 'God's Word for Today,' with nickels won in some kind of gambling machine. We certainly do not approve of such methods of getting money, but let us remember this person, that she may receive a blessing from that book she purchased."

The Brotherhood, a men's fellowship, insured that the "Home Altar" devotional made it into the houses of parishioners, and Rev. Erlander encouraged Calvary members to create their own home altar—that is, a dedicated space for prayer and meditation.

One of the highlights of this decade was acquiring a parsonage—another dream that took years to realize. A Parsonage Committee was formed and Calvary purchased a lot on 24th Avenue between 29th and 30th streets for \$900, according to the 1939-40 report. However, the following year, the committee decided not to go forward with construction of the home, perhaps due to the war. Things remained on hold until 1944, when member Anna Lofgren offered her house at 2307 19th St. in Moline for sale for \$7,000 at 3 percent interest. Calvary would have its parsonage.

Luther League at the home
of Pastor & Mrs. Erlander



As for the planned “building up” of the basement church, that would have to wait, and wait some more. Rev. Erlander had pushed for the project from the time he had arrived, insisting that it needed to be completed “as soon as possible. We need a more suitable house of worship in this area of Moline,” he said. For the church’s 25th anniversary celebration, he chose the theme “Let us rise up and build” from Nehemiah 2:18, again putting the focus on construction. “Opposition has hindered us from completing our church. We all know the story of the depression years, basement completed, heavy debt, low salaries, little work, etc., which hindered the completion of our church. Now we realize that war conditions hinder us from building.”

Despite all that, a Church Building Committee was formed, and noted church architect Hugo C. Haeuser of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was hired to draw up preliminary plans, according to the ‘44-‘45 report (a lot next to the church on 23rd Avenue was also purchased at this time). But to date, only \$6,000 had been raised to fund construction, which was estimated to cost at least 10 times that. A year later, the committee was still waiting for those architectural drawings and estimates to be completed—and still hoping for more donations. (To aid fund-raising efforts, a coin bank in the form of a miniature church was placed in a prominent spot for parishioners to drop in their loose change.) Finally, on March 19, 1948, the architect presented his final plans at a general meeting of the congregation. Another year would pass, and the total raised was still less than \$30,000—not even *half* of what was needed. Would Calvary’s building ever be “complete”? Anxious to launch the project, the committee had even solicited funds from Moline businesses—taverns and some others being excluded

from the list. Committee Chairman John Aasland summed up their frustration in his report: “Possibly there are those who have become discouraged and who feel that we may as well let down again and prepare to sit in our basement for another seven years.” But he encouraged members to find strength in the words from Haggai 2:4: “Be strong ... and work ... for I am with you.” The decade would close with \$47,000 in the bank, and a suggestion to “leave out parts” of the proposed construction to get things moving forward. What “parts,” they did not say.

Although these were challenging times, Calvary’s various church organizations continued to remain vital. The Sunday School grew with help from members of the Lutheran Missionary Society, who transported children “from Fruitland Addition and Third Street Hill” to Sunday School. Around mid-decade, an anonymous donor provided a bus to gather in more children. And they *did* come! It was reported that a 1949 Christmas program drew 491 attendees—a record for any event at Calvary up until that time. During these years, Calvary continued to partner with other area churches to present a summer Vacation Bible School at public school buildings. Also, no fewer than four youth choirs were formed at the church. While the children came to church, their parents often did not. At one point, two-thirds of those who attended Sunday School were from non-member families, making that a field ripe for harvest.

Calvary continued its strong support of missions through offerings and service projects of the church groups. Among those who benefited were former Calvary members Ella Heerde, who became a missionary to Columbia, South America in 1943, and Harold and Louise Faust, who brought the Gospel to Tanganyika, Africa. Support also went to Bethphage Mission in Axtell, Nebraska; Christian Friendliness; the Jewish Center and the Leper Mission, both in Chicago; and the Andover Children’s Home, among others.



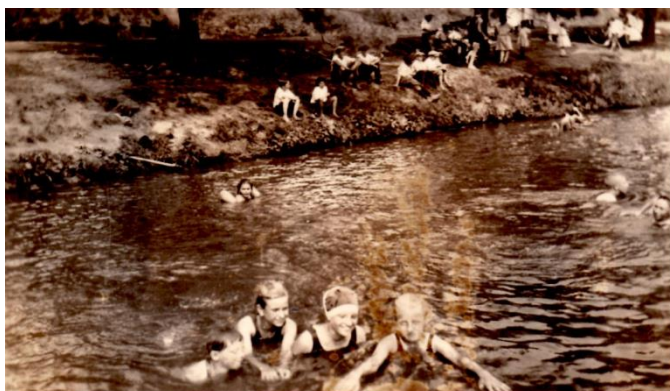
During this time, the Brotherhood established a new boys club called “The Good Fellows,” who visited the “Y” once a month for

basketball and swimming. In 1948, this men's group also laid the groundwork for establishing the first Boy Scout Troop at Calvary. In addition, they sponsored a basketball and a softball team, the latter of which reportedly played against teams from the Rock Island County Boys Home and "the Negro church in Silvis."

It was reported that the Women's Missionary Society adopted a "Little Sister" program to encourage the girls in Confirmation classes, and took on a variety of service projects in conjunction with the Lutheran Friendship Circle, the Ladies Aid and the new group for girls called Willing Workers. Group members reportedly rolled bandages, sent care packages to our troops, made tray favors and water bottle covers for patients at Lutheran Hospital, and conducted services at the Rock Island T.B. Sanatorium, to name a few.

The Luther League, too, stayed strong during the 40's. Monthly activities ran the gamut from a "New Year's Eve Wake" to a "hamburger fry" to a "taffy pull." In the '45-'46 report, it was noted that Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Krack had donated their home on the Rock River to the youth to be used as a recreational camp. It would become known as El-Beth-Eden Camp. Many youth also attended Bible camps and conferences at Archie Allen, Camp Abe Lincoln, Medicine Lake and Mount Carmel. In 1949, the League adopted a unique outreach program: Members would wrap religious tracts, together with a Calvary business card, in red cellophane and throw them out the window when they were on road trips.

The decade ended with uneasiness in the nation, as fears grew of an atomic war that could wipe out millions. And closer to home, there was apparently a polio scare for the Erlander family, who were very appreciative of the congregation's support during that difficult time. "Thanks for so remembering us when the boys were stricken with polio," Rev. Erlander wrote. "Thank God for deliverance, and may the Lord help us to better serve him."



Church picnic – 1923 – Prospect Park, Moline



Thought the motorcycle looked pretty neat!

THE Theme for the 25th:

Let Us RISE UP and BUILD

Bulletin dated August 27, 1944

25th Anniversary Suggestions for Prayer

1. That Christians may be deepened in their spiritual life.
2. That backsliders and defeated Christians may experience new life in Christ.
3. That gifts may come into the building fund.
4. That plans for our completed church may soon be made.
5. That we may earnestly long to bring Christ to lost souls.
6. That we may be given a world-wide missionary vision.

Let us use these prayer suggestions in the Quiet Hour, at the Family Altar, and at the regular prayer services. Let us also take time to pray these petitions at each organization meeting this year. At the same time let us be willing to work that they may be put into practice. PRAYER and WORK always to hand in hand in the Kingdom of God. They cannot and must not be separated.

CALVARY and PICNICS

Going through the bulletins of the 1930s & 40s it became clear that during the months of July/August, Calvary held Sunday school and Church picnics. Their favorite place? Prospect Park, Moline; and, they were held *rain or shine*. They asked people with cars to bring those without to make it a "family day" after the morning service.

You were asked to bring table service and sandwiches with other food provided by potluck. The picnic was followed by games and usually another service. By looking at the picture, looked like the children were having fun!

Letter from Eric Carlson



PFC Carl Adolf Wickstrom age 22 killed in combat for possession of the Gilbert Islands.- 11-27-1943.

He was returned in 1947 after being interred on Tarawa.

Dear folks:

Thank you for your prayers...Thank you for the Home Altar, the bulletins and papers.

Some time ago I saw a church blown apart, but standing in the damaged church a statue of Christ, arms outstretched and the statue not injured in any way, but all around were laying bricks, etc. from the damaged building. To me that left this one thought that Christ is living, standing at every one's heart with arms outstretched to take and bless them with many blessings, to give them new life. He is the same today as He was so many years ago. That picture I will never forget. It is too bad that the people in America aren't like the Belgians. Every one attends a service every day. How lax we are in U.S.

Sincerely, Eric

From the bulletin of October 21, 1945

The executive committee of the Calvary Missionary Society suggests that we put forth more effort to memorize hymns. Learn these two stanzas this week. Next week we shall add the third. The hymn?

What A Friend We Have In Jesus.

Aren't you glad no one has suggested this for a while.



Cartoon from the 1940s



PFC Glenn Robert Kroeger age 26 - MP Escort Guard KIA in France - 8/15/1944

He was returned in 1948



SGT. Reginald Eugene Berg - age 24 was KIA on Peleliu Island in the Paulaus group on 10/25/1944.

He is interred on Manila, Phillipian